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NOTRE DAME BACKS IN TO PLAYOFF

Sports, B1

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Greg Grothous, deputy director of the St. Joseph Public Works Department, and his staff are responsible for setting up and breaking down the annual holiday lights display along the bluff in St. Joseph.

What it takes to light up the bluff

Greg Grothous explains how a million-light display gets done every year

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Greg Grothous has been known to get late-night phone calls at home, telling him "the lights are out."

No, he's not an electrical worker.

Grothous, deputy director of public works for St. Joseph, oversees the city's parks and cemeteries. When it comes to the massive "Light Up The Bluff" display in Lake Bluff Park, the buck stops with him.

Herald-Palladium Staff Writer Julie Swidwa talked with Grothous, 41, about what it takes to put up, and dismantle, the popular seasonal display,

How long have you been doing this?

The city has done it for about 15 years, but I've been in charge of it for the five years I've been in this job. I'm not the one out here physically doing the wrapping of the lights and putting stuff up. All that credit goes to my staff. We start the week leading up to Halloween, so it's a lengthy process, about six to eight weeks, depending on where the first Friday in December falls. That's the target date to light it up.

We start some prep work even before that. We start staging things, pulling things out of the garage, making sure lights work. Then, you start to see things happen on the bluff that last week of October.

How is the display stored? Is everything boxed up and labeled?

We have big wooden crates that we put all the lights in. Then all the figurines and the arches, they are disassembled to some extent, and we have one garage dedicated to Light Up the Bluff. That's at Public Works. So we have things in one garage, and all the lights are in boxes and crates that go in another garage, up on shelves kind of tucked away until we need them.

See GROTHOUS, page A6

The annual Light up the Bluff holiday light display in St. Joseph features an estimated 1 million lights.

Local COVID-19 cases continue to slow over weekend

Downward trend seen across the board

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

New COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continued to decrease over the weekend in Berrien County.

The county recorded 133 new cases over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. That's compared to 260 new cases last weekend and 311 new cases the weekend before that.

The Berrien County Health Department did not update its COVID data dashboard by press time on Monday. Case numbers for Monday are according to state data.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland dropped to just 45 on Saturday, then to 40 on Sunday and Monday. Hospitalizations haven't been that low since early November. Last Monday, the hospital had reported having 66 COVID patients admitted.

Over Saturday and Sunday, Berrien County gained 356 recoveries and three deaths. This brought the county's death toll to 149.

It also brought the number of active cases in the county down to about 3,079 as of Sunday. That's compared to 3,781 last Sunday.

Van Buren County added three additional COVID-19 deaths over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. That brings the county's death toll to 68. No deaths were added in Cass County.

Van Buren County recorded 86 new COVID-19 cases over the three-day period, while Cass County recorded 60. That's down from last weekend when Van Buren County recorded 100 new cases and Cass recorded 82.

No school-related COVID-19 outbreaks were reported this week by the state in Berrien, Cass or Van Buren counties. This is the first week no outbreaks in all three counties have been reported since early October.

Long-term care facilities

COVID outbreaks at long-term care facilities also slowed last week, according to the state's report on Monday.

See CASES, page A6

Too big to read: Giant bill a leap of faith for Congress

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The $900 billion pandemic relief package being rushed through Congress Monday created a familiar year-end conundrum for lawmakers: It was a bill too big to fail, and also too big to read.

Delivering virus aid to the country required a leap of faith for lawmakers as they were casting their votes, practically sight unseen, for a sprawling, 5,593-page bill that linked the pandemic aid with a $1.4 trillion annual spending bill to fund the government. The Senate Historical Office says it's the longest bill ever passed by Congress.

"I think if we provide everyone a paper copy we would have to destroy an entire forest," joked House Rules Committee Chairman James McGovern, responding to a Republican request for a hard copy of the legislation. The bill was released at 2 p.m., just hours before the House and Senate were expected to vote on it.

Also in the bill: hundreds of unrelated legislative items negotiated by leadership to win votes from various constituencies. It includes extended tax breaks for the alcohol industry and motor speedways, comprehensive energy legislation, revised rules for music copyrights, approval of two new Smithsonian museums and lessened penalties for the transportation of water hyacinths. There's also an entire section

See BIG, page A6

More inside

■ House passes COVID relief measure, catchall bill
PAGE A2

Biden gets vaccine, says 'nothing to worry about'

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEWARK, Del. — President-elect Joe Biden on Monday received his first dose of the coronavirus vaccine on live television as part of a growing effort to convince the American public the inoculations are safe.

The president-elect took a dose of Pfizer vaccine at a hospital not far from his Delaware home, hours after his wife, Jill Biden, did the same. The injections came the same day that a second vaccine, produced by Moderna, will start arriving in states. It joins Pfizer's in the nation's arsenal against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now killed more than 317,000 people in the United States and upended life around the globe.

"I'm ready," said Biden, who was administered the dose at a hospital in Newark, Delaware. The president-elect rolled the left sleeve of his turtleneck all the way up to his shoulder, then declined the option to count to three before the needle was inserted into his left arm.

"You just go ahead anytime you're ready," he told the nurse practitioner who administered the shot.

Biden emphasized the safety of the vaccine, and said President Donald Trump's administration "deserves some credit" for getting the vaccine distribution process "off the ground."

"I'm doing this to demonstrate that people should be prepared when it's available to take the vaccine," he added. "There's nothing to worry about."

He noted, however, that distributing the vaccine is "going to take time," and urged Americans to take precautions during the holiday season to avoid the spread of the virus, including wearing masks.

"If you don't have to travel, don't travel," he said. "It's really important."

Biden also thanked health care workers, and offered praise and an elbow bump to Tabe Mase, the nurse practitioner who administered his first dose of the vaccine.

See BIDEN, page A6

Carolyn Kaster / AP

President-elect Joe Biden receives his first dose of the coronavirus vaccine from nurse practitioner Tabe Mase at Christiana Hospital in Newark Del., on Monday.

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Features	B3	Nation	A2	Sports	B1	Weather	A6

Tomorrow's Weather
High 47 Low 24

6 50645 49085 0

House passes COVID relief, catchall measure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House easily passed a $900 billion pandemic relief package Monday night that would finally deliver long-sought cash to businesses and individuals and resources to vaccinate a nation confronting a frightening surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Lawmakers tacked on a $1.4 trillion catchall spending bill and thousands of pages of other end-of-session business in a massive bundle of bipartisan legislation as Capitol Hill prepared to close the books on the year.

The lopsided 359-53 vote was a bipartisan coda to months of partisanship and politicking as lawmakers wrangled over the relief question, a logjam that broke after President-elect Joe Biden urged his party to accept a compromise with top Republicans that is smaller than many Democrats would have liked.

The relief package, unveiled Monday afternoon, sped through the House in a matter of hours. A Senate vote that would send the bill to President Donald Trump appeared likely to follow soon.

The bill combines coronavirus-fighting funds with financial relief for individuals and businesses. It would establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants, and theaters and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

The 5,593-page legislation came together Sunday after months of battling, posturing and postelection negotiating that reined in a number of Democratic demands as the end of the congressional session approached. President-elect Biden was eager for a deal to deliver long-awaited help to suffering people and a boost to the economy, even though it was less than half the size that Democrats wanted in the fall.

"This deal is not everything I want – not by a long shot," said Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, R-Mass., a longstanding voice in the party's old-school liberal wing. "The choice before us is simple. It's about whether we help families or not. It's about whether we help small businesses and restaurants or not. It's about whether we boost (food stamp) benefits and strengthen anti-hunger programs or not. And whether we help those dealing with a job loss or not. To me, this is not a tough call."

AG Barr undercuts Trump on election and Hunter Biden inquiries

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr used his final public appearance to undercut President Donald Trump on multiple fronts Monday, saying he saw no reason to appoint a special counsel to look into the president's claims about the 2020 election or to name one for the tax investigation of President-elect Joe Biden's son.

In the course of breaking with Trump on matters that have been consuming the president, Barr also reinforced the belief of federal officials that Russia was behind a massive hack of U.S. government agencies, not China as Trump had suggested.

Barr made the comments at a press conference to announce additional criminal charges in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 190 Americans, an issue he had worked on in his previous stint as attorney general in the early 1990s. He chose the announcement, in a case very personal and important to him, for his last public appearance, then took questions.

Barr said the Justice Department's existing investigation into Hunter Biden's financial dealings was "being handled responsibly and professionally."

"I have not seen a reason to appoint a special counsel and I have no plan to do so before I leave," he said. Nor for election fraud, he said.

Barr had been in lockstep with the president during much of his tenure as Trump's attorney general. But Trump, as he has done with many others in his inner circle, started criticizing Barr publicly. He was particularly angry that Barr didn't announce the existence of a two-year-old investigation of Hunter Biden.

Brynn Anderson / AP

Voting machines fill the floor for early voting at the State Farm Arena in Atlanta on Oct. 12.

Fox, Newsmax shoot down their own aired claims on election

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK — Two election technology companies whose names have come up in President Donald Trump's false charges of widespread voter fraud in the presidential election are fighting back, prompting unusual public statements from Fox News and Newsmax.

The statements, over the weekend and on Monday, came after the companies Smartmatic and Dominion raised the prospect of legal action for reporting what they said was false information about them.

Both companies were referenced in the campaign's suggestion that vote counts in swing states were manipulated to the advantage of President-elect Joe Biden. The companies deny several statements made about them, and there is no evidence any voting system switched or deleted votes in the 2020 election.

A nearly two-minute pretaped segment was aired over the weekend on a Fox Business Network program hosted by Lou Dobbs and Fox News Channel shows with Maria Bartiromo and Jeanine Pirro.

That came days after Smartmatic sent a letter threatening legal action to Fox and two other networks popular with Trump supporters, Newsmax and One America News Network.

The two-minute Fox segments aired in the form of a question-and-answer session between an offscreen voice and Eddie Perez, a voting technology expert at the nonpartisan Open Source Election Technology Institute.

"I have not seen any evidence that Smartmatic software was used to delete, change or alter anything related to vote tabulations," Perez said.

The company says its only work that involved the 2020 U.S. election came in Los Angeles. Trump lawyer Rudolph Giuliani has falsely claimed that Smartmatic was founded in Venezuela by former dictator Hugo Chavez for the goal of fixing elections. Smartmatic was started in Florida in 2000. Its founder is Venezuelan, but the company said Chavez was never involved, and its last work in Venezuela came in 2017 when its software found the government had reported false turnout numbers.

After the segment aired Sunday on Bartiromo's show, she said, "So that is where we stand right now. We will keep investigating."

Perez also said there was no apparent business relationship between Smartmatic and Dominion; Trump's lawyers have claimed with no evidence that Dominion's vote counting system used at some locations in the U.S. elections had used Smartmatic's software.

Asked Monday about the segments, Smartmatic's lawyer, J. Erik Connolly, said the company "cannot comment on the recent broadcast by Fox News due to potential litigation."

House probe: Trump administration officials attacked CDC virus reports

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trump administration political appointees tried to block or change more than a dozen government reports that detailed scientific findings about the spread of the coronavirus, a House panel investigating the alleged interference said Monday.

Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., said his coronavirus subcommittee investigators have found evidence of a "political pressure campaign" to "bully" professionals at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in what may have been an attempt to "cripple the nation's coronavirus response in a misguided effort to achieve herd immunity."

Herd immunity is shorthand for a theory – rejected by most public health experts – that society can be best protected by allowing younger people to get infected and develop natural immunity until vaccines are widely available.

Accusing Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield of stonewalling his investigation, Clyburn issued subpoenas to compel them to turn over reams of documents and emails by Dec. 30.

In a statement, HHS responded that there was no political interference, adding: "While the administration is focused on vaccination shots, the subcommittee is focused on cheap shots to create headlines and mislead the American people."

The committee's topline findings were detailed in a 20-page letter to Azar and Redfield that centered on the actions of two political appointees earlier this year at HHS. New York political operative and Trump loyalist Michael Caputo was installed as the department's top spokesman during a period of high tension between White House officials and Azar. Caputo brought health researcher Paul Alexander with him as an adviser. Both men have since left the agency.

But for months, the letter alleges, they waged a campaign to block or change articles on the COVID-19 pandemic in a CDC publication called the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, or MMWR, which is closely followed by the public health community.

U.S. deaths in 2020 top 3 million, by far most ever counted

By MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — This is the deadliest year in U.S. history, with deaths expected to top 3 million for the first time – due mainly to the coronavirus pandemic.

Final mortality data for this year will not be available for months. But preliminary numbers suggest that the United States is on track to see more than 3.2 million deaths this year, or at least 400,000 more than in 2019.

U.S. deaths increase most years, so some annual rise in fatalities is expected. But the 2020 numbers amount to a jump of about 15 percent, and could go higher once all the deaths from this month are counted.

That would mark the largest single-year percentage leap since 1918, when tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers died in World War I and hundreds of thousands of Americans died in a flu pandemic. Deaths rose 46 percent that year, compared with 1917.

COVID-19 has killed more than 318,000 Americans and counting. Before it came along, there was reason to be hopeful about U.S. death trends.

The nation's overall mortality rate fell a bit in 2019, due to reductions in heart disease and cancer deaths. And life expectancy inched up – by several weeks – for the second straight year, according to death certificate data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But life expectancy for 2020 could end up dropping as much as three full years, said Robert Anderson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC counted 2,854,838 U.S. deaths last year, or nearly 16,000 more than 2018. That's fairly good news: Deaths usually rise by about 20,000 to 50,000 each year, mainly due to the nation's aging, and growing, population.

Indeed, the age-adjusted death rate dropped about 1 percent in 2019, and life expectancy rose by about six weeks to 78.8 years, the CDC reported.

The U.S. coronavirus epidemic has been a big driver of deaths this year, both directly and indirectly. The virus has become the third leading cause of death, behind only heart disease and cancer. For certain periods this year, COVID-19 was the No. 1 killer.

LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
JS-5C-5H-4S-8S
Midday Daily 3
3-0-4
Midday Daily 4
8-9-1-1
Daily 3
1-9-7
Daily 4
2-9-8-8
Fantasy 5
05-11-28-31-38
Keno
03-08-11-12-16-22-31-33-37-39-42-43-47-49-52-53-63-66-68-69-72-80
Mega Millions jackpot
$330 million
Powerball jackpot
$321 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
03-05-10-34-38
Estimated jackpot
$794,000
Cash4Life
20-21-36-47-53, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
05-09-23-30-34-35-43-44-45-46-53-54-55-59-60-64-67-71-74-75, BE: 71
Daily Three-Midday
4-3-5, SB: 6
Daily Three-Evening
3-8-0, SB: 7
Daily Four-Midday
0-3-8-8, SB: 6
Daily Four-Evening
3-7-5-5, SB: 7

Quick Draw Evening
02-11-17-23-25-29-37-38-39-44-45-47-51-54-55-63-71-73-77-80, BE: 38

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
01-06-11-12-30
Estimated jackpot
$650,000
Pick Three-Midday
8-9-3, Fireball: 2
Pick Three-Evening
5-4-4, Fireball: 3
Pick Four-Midday
1-7-6-3, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
5-9-3-1, Fireball: 0
Lucky Day Lotto
03-06-18-24-43

– The Associated Press

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SH visitors bureau director to retire in May

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — After five years as executive director of the South Haven/Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau, late last week Scott Reinert announced plans to retire in the spring.

"There are many reasons behind this decision and they are all positive ones," Reinert said. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the community and area that I love."

REINERT

Reinert plans to retire at the end of May 2021. In the meantime, he said he will work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors' search for his replacement.

"I will be working with the board to coordinate our future leadership plan and ensure a seamless transition," he said.

As executive director, Reinert played a key role in improving the bureau's marketing strategies. Under his leadership the bureau created new festivals and events, including Holiday in the Park and New Year's Eve in the Haven.

The bureau also developed a comprehensive mix of media to reach travelers, including print ad, billboards, digital ads and radio. Its new branding and tagline – "Find your Escape" were targeted to "urban escapists."

The strategy paid off. On average, the bureau's lodging establishment members collected close to $19 million in revenue annually, during most of Reinert's tenure.

"It equates to an estimated $85 million in total travel and tourism-related spending for our local economy," Reinert said in a previous interview.

This year, however, the tourism industry has been hit hard due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions to control the spread of the deadly virus.

Most tourism-related businesses were forced to close from mid-March to the end of May due to the state lockdown of businesses considered non-essential. When the order was lifted in June, South Haven's tourism industry flourished by attracting visitors who were seeking vacations closer to home that offered a variety of outdoor activities. But with the uptick of coronavirus cases in mid-September, the state has again imposed restrictions on restaurants and entertainment venues, which again hit the tourism industry.

Reinert said he's optimistic for the future of tourism in South Haven and Van Buren County.

"In spite of this year of turmoil, I feel the bureau is extremely well positioned for the future." Reinert said he plans to stay involved with the visitors bureau after he retires.

"I'm very confident there will be a path forward for me to continue to serve the visitors bureau and South Haven community, just in a different capacity," he said.

CURBSIDE FESTIVITIES

Photos by Tony Wittkowski / HP staff

Charlotte, 9, of Coloma, holds her dog Monday for a photo with Santa Claus on Monday during the Coloma Curbside Christmas event, which was created to help small businesses during the pandemic.

Rebecca Russell, an employee at Friendly's Tavern, delivers food to a waiting vehicle Monday. The event allowed residents to buy local food and items from their cars.

Dozens of vehicles line up throughout downtown Coloma on Monday for the event. More than 200 vehicles participated.

Ian Ishmael, who was previously named Mr. Coloma, welcomes drivers and gives directions for the Coloma Curbside Christmas event on Monday.

From left, St. Joseph resident Alyssa Bush, Stevensville resident Jana Bush, and Watervliet resident Ariona Wagner perform festive songs Monday during the inaugural Coloma Curbside Christmas event.

Pursuit ends in arrest as police probe car thefts

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

NILES — Two people were arrested in Niles early Monday after alleged car theft.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office said a man and woman from South Bend, both 18, were taken to the Berrien County jail on charges of possessing/concealing a stolen vehicle. The man was also charged with fleeing and eluding police, and the woman was wanted on warrants out of Cass and Kent counties, police said.

The sheriff's office said deputies spotted two vehicles being driven in the parking lot of Tyler Automotive in the 1800 block of South 11th Street in Niles Township at about 1:40 a.m. Monday, outside of normal business hours.

Police tried to make contact but both vehicles sped off. Deputies pursued one of the vehicles north on South 11th Street for about a minute, and the driver pulled over at South 11th and Hickory Street in the city of Niles. Police said the 18-year-old man was driving and the woman was a passenger in the vehicle, which had been reported stolen out of South Bend.

The sheriff's office said the second vehicle that had fled from the Tyler Automotive parking lot is believed to have been stolen from there and has not been found. Police are continuing to investigate.

Sheriff's deputies were assisted by Michigan State Police and Niles Police.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

One injured in exchange of gunfire between vehicles

By HP STAFF

NILES — A woman was injured when gunfire was exchanged between two vehicles traveling on Barron Lake Road in Howard Township near Niles on Saturday.

Police did not release the woman's name but said she was treated and released from Elkhart General Hospital.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office are continuing to investigate the incident, which took place at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Cass County Central Dispatch received a 911 call in which the caller stated they were traveling north on Barron Lake Road and someone in another vehicle was shooting at them.

Police said a pickup truck and passenger car were involved. Deputies stopped the pickup truck, which had a flat tire, near Barron Lake Road and Pokagon Highway, and determined it was one of the vehicles involved.

A second vehicle, a car carrying four occupants including the injured woman, was found damaged alongside the road on Pokagon Highway near Hampshire Street. No additional information about the incident was released.

Assisting sheriff's deputies were Pokagon Tribal Police, Michigan State Police, Dowagiac Police, the Howard Township Fire Department and Southwest Michigan Community Ambulance Service.

As police continue their investigation, anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Cass County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 800-462-9328, or contact the sheriff's office through the Anonymous Web Tip Line at www.ccso.info.

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assault

Demonte D. Clark, 35, of May Court, Benton Harbor, 90 days in jail, credit for 36 days served, $1,558 in fines and costs and 2 years probation for assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, an assault on a woman July 20 in Benton Harbor.

Niles

Assault

Bonnie J. Bowman, 25, of Kokomo, Ind., $658 in fines and costs, 2 years probation and forfeiture of a pistol for attempted assault with a dangerous weapon, an assault on three people, Aug. 8 in Berrien Springs.

Weapons violation

Olen L. Simmons Jr., 22, of Michigan Avenue, Niles, $598 in fines and costs, 60 days on tether and 2 years probation for carrying a concealed weapon in an automobile Feb. 3 in Niles.

Assaulting / resisting police

Justin D. Rowe, 28, of North Main Street, Buchanan, 180 days in jail, credit for 2 days served, and $198 in costs for assaulting/resisting and obstructing Niles Police Officer Daniel Nelson Jan. 12 in Niles.

Christian L. Wall, 30, of Cherry Street, Niles, 1 year in jail, credit for 1 year served, and $258 in costs for lying to a peace officer in the summer of 2019 in Niles.

Justin L. Knoll, 37, of Kinst Road, New Buffalo, 2 days in jail, credit for 2 days served, $598 in fines and costs, 90 days on tether and 2 years probation for assaulting/resisting and obstructing Niles Police Officer Alan Vietzke Sept. 5 in Niles.

Susan J. Anderson, 54, of Granger, Ind., 3 days in jail, credit for 3 days served, and $125 in costs for attempted assaulting/resisting and obstructing Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Preston Huddleston Dec. 22, 2019, in Niles Township.

Criminal sexual conduct

Dallas G. Foster, 26, of West Chicago Street, Buchanan, 25-53 years in prison, credit for 390 days served, $258 in costs and lifetime electronic tether monitoring for first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a child Sept. 27, 2019, in Buchanan.

IN BRIEF

Tackle Haven requests variance in Benton Harbor

BENTON HARBOR — The Benton Harbor Zoning Board of Appeals will meet Jan. 4 to consider a request from Tackle Haven, 741 Riverview Drive, to extend its property to allow for more storage space.

The board will meet immediately after the city commission meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually if state laws are extended to allow it. Instructions on how to participate will be posted at www.bhcity.us.

Tackle Haven is requesting to extend the property line from the north of Gray Street and east of the property driveway. The existing building, where boats are stored, is 15,400 square feet.

Comments can be emailed to Clerk Kimberly Thompson at kthompson@cityofbentonharbor.gov, or mailed to her attention at 200 E. Wall St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

The application and documents can be viewed at Thompson's office between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

COVID-19 spikes follow in prisons after inmate transfers

By CARY ASPINWALL OF THE MARSHALL PROJECT and ED WHITE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP Photo / Carlos Osorio

Jennifer Gross holds photos of herself with fiancé Robert Vermett, Friday, in Taylor, Mich. Families of men incarcerated at Michigan's Kinross Correctional Facility believed its remote location would spare it from a deadly COVID-19 outbreak. More than 1,100 prisoners have now been infected, at least seven have died and more than 100 guards have fallen ill. Vermett, recovering from COVID-19, is serving a life sentence for a murder conviction.

DETROIT — Families of men incarcerated at Michigan's Kinross Correctional Facility believed its remote location would spare it from a deadly COVID-19 outbreak. For a while, they seemed to be right.

Kinross, built on the grounds of a former Air Force base in the Upper Peninsula, is closer to Canada than it is to Detroit. Unlike most prisons in Michigan, Kinross had remained almost unscathed by the novel coronavirus with only one case between March and October.

But on Oct. 28, corrections officials transferred nine prisoners to Kinross from Marquette Branch Prison, several hours west, where COVID-19 was running rampant. There were 837 confirmed cases by late October, 350 of which were still active when the men were transferred.

Roughly three weeks later, Kinross had its first major outbreak, corrections department data showed. Though agency officials say it's not because of the transfers, more than 1,100 prisoners have now been infected, at least seven have died and more than 100 guards have fallen ill. The prisoners who came to Kinross had been transferred twice, sent first to Marquette after a riot where they were held, and then had tested positive for COVID-19 there before leaving for Kinross, officials said.

In prisons around the country, COVID-19 outbreaks have followed transfers of prisoners or prison workers. Nearly all of the 25 state prison systems and the federal Bureau of Prisons that responded to a survey conducted by The Marshall Project and The Associated Press said they had reduced or limited the number of prisoners they moved due to the pandemic. Eight states halted the practice except in special circumstances. The reductions were keeping in line with medical guidelines.

But most of those states lifted their restrictions by September and few prison systems heeded the earlier lessons as the pandemic worsened this winter, worrying families of prisoners and correctional officers who work in the prisons.

The coronavirus has killed more than 300,000 people in the U.S., and cases are rising again this winter after leveling off in the late summer months. There have been more than 275,000 cases inside U.S. prisons. Prisons are a particular concern because social distancing is virtually nonexistent behind bars, prisoners sleep in close quarters and share bathrooms, and each prison has varying policies on personal protective equipment and who gets it.

Oklahoma's prisons reported relatively few cases of COVID-19 until state officials closed several units because of budget cuts, transferring more than 4,500 prisoners between facilities from late July to September. Major outbreaks followed, with more than 5,800 prisoners testing positive and at least 33 dying from the virus.

In Amarillo, Texas, officers who worked at the Neal Unit prison were proud the facility remained unscathed by the virus, but that changed in September. That's when strict protocols were loosened by the warden, including mandatory isolation of transferred prisoners, according to a longtime correction officer at the prison who had direct knowledge of the protocols but was not authorized to discuss them publicly and spoke to The Marshall Project on condition of anonymity.

The virus soon took over, infecting hundreds of prisoners and killing a chaplain and a food service manager at the prison. Jeremy Desel, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said the cases were found mostly among prisoners who were asymptomatic and disputed the officer's account. "There has been no relaxing of protocols. If anything they've been tightened," Desel said.

Congress OKs 5-year extension of Great Lakes cleanup program

By JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY — A program that has pumped $2.7 billion into healing long-term injuries to the Great Lakes environment has received authorization from Congress to continue another five years.

The U.S. Senate voted unanimously Sunday to extend the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, as the House did earlier this year. The bill, which requires President Donald Trump's signature to take effect, calls for gradually boosting the program's annual funding from $300 million to $475 million by 2026.

The measure doesn't guarantee the money, which lawmakers will need to provide in annual spending bills. But authorizing the program for multiple years is an important step.

"Over the past decade, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been producing results for communities across the region, but serious threats remain," Laura Rubin, director of Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, said Monday. "This bill recognizes the work we have left to do, and allows Congress to boost funding to tackle these threats before they get worse and more expensive to solve."

The program, conceived during the presidency of George W. Bush and given its first significant funding under Barack Obama, has drawn bipartisan backing from elected officials in the eight-state Great Lakes region.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat and co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, described it as "a major success story that has been critical to addressing the threats that face our beloved Great Lakes."

It has supported nearly 5,500 projects targeting some of the most longstanding ecological problems plaguing the lakes: toxic industrial pollution in harbors and tributary rivers; invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels; harmful algae caused by farm runoff and sewage overflows; and loss of wetlands and other wildlife habitat.

Another priority has been developing technologies and monitoring waterways to prevent invasive Asian carp, a threat to native fish species, from becoming established in the lakes.

The projects have taken place in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Many have drawn matching funds from local governments, indigenous tribes and nonprofit groups.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the program, has pledged more reporting on how well it's meeting long-term goals. EPA also is encouraging projects that can withstand stresses such as climate and ecological change, as well as population growth.

The program's renewal offers opportunities for a stepped-up focus on communities of color and low-income areas, which the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden is pledging to make a priority, said Jordan Lubetkin, spokesman for Healing Our Waters coalition.

"The country's having a conversation around race relations and equity issues," he said. "In the environmental space, we can talk about how to do our part."

Judge plans to hear from residents in $641M Flint water deal

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT — A judge said Monday that she'll wait until January before deciding whether to give preliminary approval to a $641 million settlement in a lawsuit by Flint residents who were exposed to water contaminated with lead and bacteria.

Residents in the city of 100,000 still will get a chance to give their opinion if preliminary approval is granted, U.S. District Judge Judith Levy told lawyers over Zoom.

"If that hearing needs to go two or three or more days, that is how long it will take," Levy said.

"I will be keeping the pedal to the metal to move the litigation forward," she said. "But on the other hand, nothing is more important to me than hearing all sides of an issue and having the time to consider them carefully."

Most of the money – $600 million – is coming from the state of Michigan. Regulators in then-Gov. Rick Snyder's administration allowed Flint to use the Flint River in 2014-15 without treating the water to reduce corrosion. As a result, lead in old pipes broke off and flowed through taps.

Separately, experts have blamed the water for an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which led to at least 12 deaths in the Flint area.

McLaren Regional Medical Center would pay $20 million, and an engineering services firm, Rowe Professional Services, would pay $1.25 million into the settlement, the attorney general's office has said.

Flint would pay $20 million from an insurance policy, but the city council so far hasn't signed on. The deadline is Dec. 31.

Corey Stern, an attorney who represents 4,000 people, including 2,700 kids, said roughly 80 percent of the money would go to children who were exposed to lead. The exact distribution hasn't been determined. The number of claims will be crucial.

"The amount of money that will flow to children in this settlement will forever change the trajectory of their lives... There are safeguards within the settlement to determine what is actually best for each child," Stern told the judge.

Attorney Todd Weglarz, however, said adults were being shortchanged.

"Your clients don't have to accept the settlement," Levy said. "They will have an opportunity to file an objection."

There are separate lawsuits pending against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other parties.

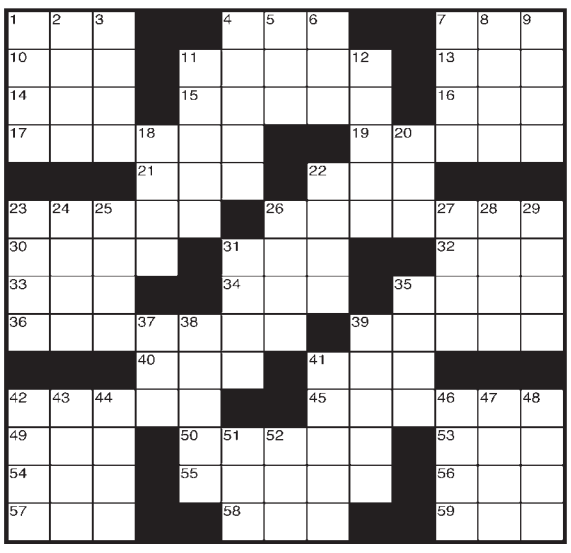
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Obtained
4 Sickly pale
7 Location technique: abbr.
10 Sigh of content
11 Mall attractions
13 Outback jumper
14 Letter after pi
15 Spotless
16 Compilation
17 Underwent combustion
19 More unusual
21 Numero —
22 Tumble the wash
23 Waterslide
26 Glossy fabrics
30 Hula-Hoop sites
31 Weep loudly
32 Coq au —
33 Groom's reply (2 wds.)
34 Successful candidates
35 Bill of fare
36 Fine
39 Ersatz chocolate
40 Unlucky gambler's note
41 Tricycle rider
42 Exciting
45 Sense
49 Sort
50 Hacienda brick
53 Small deer
54 Wallach or Lilly
55 Entices
56 Cash giver
57 Rather of TV
58 Place a wager
59 Racing circuit

DOWN
1 Clothing
2 Diamond Head locale
3 Thunder god
4 Where's —?
5 Malt beverage
6 Teachers' org.
7 Former senior
8 Cornbread
9 Hang-glide
11 Panorama
12 Pony's comment
18 Squirrel food
20 Color
22 Applies gently
23 Nick
24 Go to earth
25 Versed in (2 wds.)
26 Walkman brand
27 Happily — after
28 El —
29 Cold shoulder
31 In — (as found)
35 Marshal Dillon
37 Support
38 Trustworthy
39 Retina cells
41 Lama's land
42 Hastened
43 Fitzgerald of jazz
44 Related
46 Eurasian range
47 Wee bit
48 Office sub
51 Make a knight
52 Pay dirt

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	R	E			I	M	P		K	I	N	D
O	V	E	N			S	A	O		O	R	E	O
W	I	N	D		M	I	S	T	A	K	E	N	
	L	O	O	M		D	E	E		S	R	S	
			W	A	G	E	R	E	D				
A	P	E		G	U	N	S		A	S	H	Y	
D	E	C	E	I	T				F	O	I	E	
D	A	H	S				A	T	T	I	L	A	
S	L	O	P		C	I	A	O		L	O	S	
			N	A	U	G	H	T	Y				
K	E	Y		M	T	N		E	A	C	H		
A	N	A	L	Y	T	I	C		W	R	A	P	
L	I	R	E		E	T	A		N	O	R	A	
E	D	N	A		R	E	P		S	P	E	W	



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JUMBLE

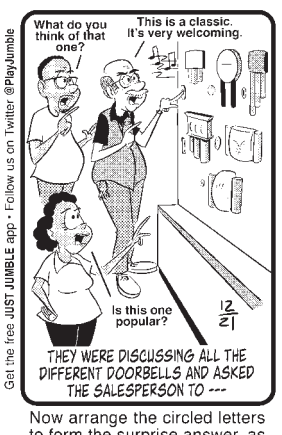
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUHDO

PLIME

MITFIS

CPTEKO


What do you think of that one?
This is a classic. It's very welcoming.
Is this one popular?
12/21
THEY WERE DISCUSSING ALL THE DIFFERENT DOORBELLS AND ASKED THE SALESPERSON TO ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ODDLY SWEPT WICKED AFFORD
Answer: When she saw her mom upside-down doing a headstand, the girl — SAID WOW!

KAKURO

	29	18	12		26	7	17	24	16
6				34					
21				17 13					
22						13 16			
3			26 18					24	18
27					10 13				
	9	10 22					3 7		
10				16 3					
32						7			
16						19			

Difficulty Level ★ 12/21

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

	11	21	15	3		21	6	12	3
23	9	6	5	2	11	5	2	3	1
12	2	5	4	1	20	6	3	9	2
	4 23	3	1	13 21	9	3	1	21	21
29	8	4	2	3	5	1	9 15	1	8
15	9	2	3	1	16 11	4	3	2	9
7	6	1	24 8	6	8	2	1	3	4
	12 3	3	1	2	3	24 6	5	6	11
10	3	1	2	4	10	1	2	4	3
19	9	2	3	5	19	2	4	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12-21

BRIDGE

Our friend A.N. Onymous said, "Many of us have heard opportunity knocking at our door, but by the time we unhooked the chain, pushed back the bolt, turned two locks and shut off the burglar alarm – it was gone."

We have an alarm-clock play in bridge. It isn't to wake partner, because he isn't asleep; it is to tell him that an unusual play is needed to defeat the contract. Can you spot it in today's deal? South is in four spades, and West guesses well to lead the heart king.

In the auction, South's three-diamond rebid was a help-suit game-try, indicating a six-loser hand that needed help in diamonds. North, with more than half of his points in diamonds, jumped to four spades. He did wonder about three notrump, though. If he had bid that, presumably East would have led the heart jack, and the defenders would have taken the first five tricks.

West led the heart king and continued with his second heart. East took that trick and cashed a third winner, on which West discarded the club three.

At this point, East shifted to a club, despite partner's discouraging discard. Declarer won, drew trumps and had 10 tricks: five spades, one diamond and four clubs. (Remember West's discard at trick three.)

Yes, West's signal should have worked, but he had a better play. He should have sounded the alarm by pitching the diamond queen! This would have asked partner to do something unusual – and what is more abnormal than giving declarer a ruff-and-sluff? Notice that a fourth heart promotes a trump trick for West.

North 12-21-20
♠ 7 6 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ A J 2
♣ Q 9 5 2

West
♠ 10 8 5 4
♥ K 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ J 8 7 3

East
♠ 9
♥ A J 10 7 2
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ 10 6 4

South
♠ A K Q J 3
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 6
♣ A K

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

	2		9					5
				2		3		6
1	6		7	3	4		9	
5	1			9		2	3	
3		8	2	4	1	6		7
	4	2		6			8	9
	5		1	8	2		6	3
6		9		7				
2					9		7	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	1	2	6	3	9	4	8	5
9	6	3	5	4	8	1	2	7
4	8	5	1	7	2	3	9	6
1	4	7	3	2	5	8	6	9
2	5	6	8	9	1	7	4	3
8	3	9	7	6	4	5	1	2
3	7	8	2	1	6	9	5	4
5	2	4	9	8	7	6	3	1
6	9	1	4	5	3	2	7	8

OBITUARIES

Duane Louis Schmidt

Dec. 17, 1938 – Dec. 20, 2020

Duane Louis Schmidt, 82, of Stevensville died Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville.

Duane was born on Dec. 17, 1938, in the home of his grandparents in Sawyer, to Louis and Lottie (Myrda) Schmidt, the first of five sons.

He graduated from New Troy High School, pursuing a career in construction and becoming a "pipefitter by trade," as he would say. He settled in Wisconsin to raise his family, where he was also the owner of Duane's Den in Lake Geneva for many years. He returned to his trade and spent the last 17 years of his career as the supervisor of skilled trades at Kikkomen Foods, Walworth, Wis.

He married Doreen (Hauch) Landeck on May 31, 1998, in Rapid City, S.D. Duane and Doreen loved to explore the back roads and smalltowns of America and together traveled to 47 states from Maine to Alaska. Duane was a kind, humble man of quiet faith who was never without his quick-witted sense of humor. His hobbies were walleye fishing and work.

He loved his family intensely, and is survived by his wife, Doreen; daughters: Deborah Olson and Darcey Bauer of Wisconsin; stepdaughter: Regan Pallas; stepsons: Jason Pallas and Craig Pallas; grandchildren: Michael Olson, Jacob Olson, Jeff Stevens, Carter Bauer, Mae Bauer, Kannen Pallas, and Makenzie Pallas; and five (soon to be six) great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his brother and best friend, Larry (Nerma) Schmidt of Sawyer; brothers: Randy (Wanda) Schmidt of Bridgman, and Richard (Norma Reitz) Schmidt of St. Charles, Mo.; and beloved niece, and nephews.

He was preceded by his parents; his brother, Gary Schmidt; and daughter, Danille Reiff.

The family will be remembering him privately. Memorial contributions may be given to St. Joseph Lincoln Senior Center Transportation Fund, 3271 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com. Arrangements entrusted to Pike Funeral and Cremation Services, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman.

Norman L. Stokes

Sept. 9, 1937 – Dec. 18, 2020

Norman L. "Norm" Stokes, 83, of Berrien Springs passed away Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A private service will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Caring Circle of Lakeland, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Norm was born on Sept. 9, 1937, to Stanley and Evelyn Stokes (Gale) in Benton Harbor. He graduated from Coloma High School and then proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy until he was honorably discharged.

On Sept. 6, 1958, Norm married Theresa Mondelli at St. John's Catholic Church in Benton Harbor. He was a devoted husband and took care of Theresa until her passing in 2007. Norm worked as a computer analyst for Whirlpool Corp., for over 40 years before his retirement.

Norm enjoyed golfing, fishing and assisting in community events as a HAM radio operator. He was a humble man known for helping anyone – friends and strangers alike.

Norm is survived by his children: David Stokes of Berrien Springs and Debra (Niels) Bergstrom of Park Ridge, Ill.; and numerous nieces and

Norm was preceded in death by his parents: Stanley and Evelyn Stokes; and siblings: Gale Stokes, Jack Stokes, Mary Stokes, Connie Kerrick and Lee Stokes.

John Frederick Russell

Oct. 14, 1930 – Dec. 17, 2020

John Frederick Russell, 90, of Baroda passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020.

Military Rites and a celebration of his life will be at a later date. Send memorial contributions to the Baroda American Legion, Post 345, 9214 1st St., Baroda, MI 49101. Online condolences will b accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

John was born on Oct. 14, 1930, the son of the late Jack and Lena (Forbouer) Russell.

He was a veteran of the Korean War and was past and present commander of the Baroda American Legion, Post 345.

John's legacy will forever be remembered by the many lives that he touched. He will be loved and missed by all.

John is survived by his children: Dannie (Cheryl) Russell of Waxahachie, Texas; Jill Russell and Cindy Bunkelmac of Galeton, Tenn.; and Johnny Russell of Florida. John was dearly loved by his companion of 25 years, Delois Hoge, and her children: Pam Meyers, Patty (Ron) Postma, Paula (David) Faultersack, Phil (Joanne) Hoge, Penny (Steve) McKenzie. Survivors also include many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John was also preceded in death by his son, Kim Russell; and a daughter, Karen Roach.

Arrangements entrusted to Pike Funeral and Cremation Service, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman.

Timothy T. Kalin

Feb. 1, 1960 – Dec. 15, 2020

Timothy "Tim" T. Kalin, 60, of Benton Harbor passed away at his home Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020.

A graveside service will be at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202.

Those wishing to share a memory of Tim can do so online at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Tim was born on Feb. 1, 1960, in St. Joseph to Gerald and Delores (Fillwock) Kalin.

Since graduating from St. Joseph High School in 1978, Tim has worked for his family's business, Kalin Construction, as a project supervisor. An avid drag racer, Tim spent many hours in the garage working on cars or out on the track. He loved football and was an avid University of Michigan fan.

Tim is survived by his four siblings, Gerald (Cheryl) Kalin of St. Joseph, Denise (Thomas) Tackett of Stevensville, Ted (Sandi) Kalin of St. Joseph, and Bruce Kalin of St. Joseph; one niece, five nephews, four great-nieces and eight great-nephews.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald and Delores, and an infant sister, Theresa.

Lorraine H. Rennhack

Jan. 30, 1930 – Dec. 23, 2020

Lorraine H. Rennhack, 90, of Coloma passed away Dec. 20, 2020 at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at Salem Lutheran Church in Coloma. A private burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery in St. Joseph.

Memorial donations in Lorraine's memory may be made to Salem Lutheran Church Preschool. Those wishing to leave a message or share a memory with the family online may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Lorraine was born on Jan. 10, 1930, in St. Joseph to Erwin and Daisy (Stenback) Ladwig.

She was an active member at Salem Lutheran Church and was always willing to lend a hand. She took great pride in taking care of her family, being involved in church and school activities, being a part of Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, and being the chauffeur as her children and grandchildren were growing up.

Lorraine is survived by her husband, Gene, whom she married May 3, 1952; children: Dennis (Rhonda) Rennhack of Stevensville, and Linda (Fred) Koenigshof of Coloma; son-in-law, Dennis (Marie) Marsh; seven grandchildren: Aaron and Jonathan Rennhack, Erich (Liliam) Koenigshof, Amy (Daniel) Kowalski, Emily (James) Page, James (Jennifer) Marsh and Samantha (Drew) Williams; and four great-grandchildren: Mason, Aubree, Andrew and Carlee.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her daughter, Julie Marsh; and infant son, Curtis Rennhack.

Jeanette Helen Reitz

May 23, 1938 – Dec. 13, 2020

Jeanette Helen Reitz, 82, of Baroda passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, at her home in the care of her family.

The family will be remembering Jeanette privately. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Jan was born May 23, 1938, in New Troy, the daughter of the late Moses and Hilda (Hauch) McNees.

She married Eldon Albert Reitz on May 3, 1958. Jan and Eldon loved to travel. They vacationed in 49 of the 50 states, visiting all of the National Parks. She enjoyed quilting, gardening and reading. Jan and Eldon attended Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bridgman.

Survivors include her husband, Eldon; children: Cheryl Schoenback, Michele (Rick) MacPherson, and Denise (Scott) VanSchaardenburg; seven grandchildren: Maureen (Brad) Pliley, Kristin and Allison Schoenback, Alexa and Anika VanSchaardenburg, Ian MacPherson and Ardee Faultersack; great-grandaughter, Aubree; siblings: Jack (Diane) McNees, Carol (Dave) Lowe, Dale (Pat) Strefling and Ann Wiley.

Jan was preceded by her son, Steven Reitz in June of 2019.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman.

Pauline Lucille Pipkins

June 29, 1948 – Dec. 18, 2020

Pauline Lucille Pipkins, 72, of Hartford passed away Dec. 18, 2020, in Calhoun, Ga.

Pauline's ashes will be laid to rest next to her husband, George, at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Fairview Cemetery in Watervliet.

Those wishing to leave an online message of remembrance may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Pauline was born on June 29, 1948, in Battle Creek to Ted and Shirley (Ward) Moore. She has resided in Hartford since 1965 and currently is a regional advisor for International Student Exchange for over the past 30 years.

Survivors include a son, Charles (Bonnie) Broadhurst Jr.; a daughter, Heather (Nacer) Tag; stepsons: Joe Diehl and Jamie (Cindy) Diehl; and her very close companion, Bob Lerma. Also surviving are four sisters: Rosetta Ginger Middaugh, Linda (Vic) Blanton, Lila (Ned) Gibson and Robin (James) Campbell; a brother, Terry (Lisa) Moore; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Pauline was preceded in death by her husband, George, in 2012; a daughter, Laurie Ann Pipkins; daughter-in-law, Tammy Diehl; stepson, Paul Pipkins; a brother, Teddy "Butch" Moore, and a granddaughter, Miranda Leisure.

Sally S. Bulmon

Feb. 20, 1935 – Dec. 16, 2020

Sally S. Bulmon, 85, of Dowagiac passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at The Timbers of Cass County, Dowagiac.

Cremation has taken place, and the family will celebrate her life privately.

Memorial contributions in Sally's name can be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Timbers of Cass County or Animal Service League.

Those wishing to send a condolence online can do so at www.clarkch.com.

Sally was born on Feb. 20, 1935, in Hillsdale, Mich., to Lavern and Beatrice (Cash) Sleeper.

She attended Hillsdale High School. After high school, Sally went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English from Western Michigan University. She was a teacher at Christ the King Catholic School in South Bend, Ind. Sally was a substitute teacher, and tutored kids in the summer for many years.

She enjoyed watching TV, especially old movies. Sally had a love for animals, and was an avid reader. Most of all, she loved her family and will be greatly missed.

Sally is survived by her children, Mark (Debbie) Bulmon and Gail (Mike) Sievert; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, George Bulmon.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

@Herald Palladium

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Death notices

Marylou Abbott, 89, of Niles died Dec. 19, 2020, at home. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Marian Ann Barton, 89, of St. Joseph died Dec. 18, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Millie K. Binns, 70, of Niles died Dec. 19, 2020, at her home. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Catherine Jane Birmele, 88, of South Haven died Dec. 11, 2020. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

DeMarcus Brann, 52, of Niles died Dec. 19, 2020, at Lakeland Hospital, Niles. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Sally S. Bulmon, 85, of Dowagiac died Dec. 16, 2020. Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, Dowagiac, 782-2135.

Katherine Darato, 75, of St. Joseph died Dec. 17, 2020, at Hanson Hospice, Stevensville. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Douglas P. Ewalt, 62, formerly of Berrien Springs died Dec. 19, 2020, at his home in South Bend. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

Martha Gipson, 95, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 19, 2020, at home. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Stanislaw E. Gorski, 70, of Stevensville died Dec. 19, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Patricia Gresham, 82, of Niles died Dec. 18, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Nellie Hagood, 81, of Niles died Dec. 21, 2020, in South Bend, Ind. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Linda Hunt, 74, of Covert died Dec. 16, 2020, at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Ralph Jacobsen, 86, of Grand Junction died Dec. 18, 2020, at his home. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Timothy T. Kalin, 60, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 15, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Stanley Kizer, 72, of Niles died Dec. 20, 2020, at his home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Betty Lange, 50, of Three Oaks died Dec. 19, 2020. Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

Jimmie L McCoy, 84, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 15, 2020, at home. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Pauline Lucille Pipkins, 72, of Hartford died Dec. 18, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Jeanette Helen Reitz, 82, of Baroda died Dec. 13, 2020. Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral Home and Cremations Service, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Lorraine H. Rennhack, 90, of Coloma died Dec. 20, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Julie Ann Rice (née Postello), 56, of St. Joseph died Dec. 16, 2020. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

John Frederick Russell, 90, of Baroda died Dec. 17, 2020. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Susan Russell, 82, of St. Joseph died Dec. 19, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Duane Louis Schmidt, 82, of Stevensville died Dec. 20, 2020. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Rodney D. Solloway Sr., 60, of Niles died Dec. 16, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Norman "Norm" L. Stokes, 83, of Berrien Springs died Dec. 18, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Richard Nels Wales, 73, of St. Joseph died Dec. 20, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Catherine Jane Birmele

May 5, 1932 – Dec. 11, 2020

Catherine Jane Birmele, 88, passed away Friday, Dec. 11, 2020, at South Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Community.

She was born on May 5, 1932, to Forest and Ada (Pritchard) Weber in Watervliet. She was a devoted wife and mother.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Theodore William Birmele, as well as her siblings and parents.

Catherine is survived by her children, Ann Davis, Forest Birmele, Catharine Birmele, Ada Engle and Chris Ashley; 12 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

Services will be announced at a later date.

Share thoughts and memories on the family's online guest book at www.FilbrandtFFH.com. The family is being helped by Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

Southwestern Michigan College's special needs program has acquired a reading system designed to help students and community members who have visual or hearing disabilities "read" more easily, the college announced. The "IBM Reading Edge" machine translates most printed material into speech output that the user hears through earphones. The machine is currently located in the Developmental Studies Department on the Dowagiac campus.

1985 – 35 years ago

A dedication ceremony for newly installed stained-glass windows will be held during worship service at Sawyer Highland Baptist Church. The stained-glass windows were installed this past week by Conrad's Glass Works of St. Joseph. The stained glass is a new addition to the church's 26-year-old sanctuary.

1970 – 50 years ago

The Pink Panther is in Coloma for the record. The Panther in this case is a four-speed portable record player made in the image of the Pink Panther cartoon character. The player is being produced by the Coliet Toy Manufacturing Co., under exclusive production and sales rights from United Artists Inc. Larry Hughes, owner of he business, designed the phonograph, and with the aid of his two sons hopes to make 50 of them before Christmas.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2020. There are nine days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 22, 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

On this date:

In 1858, opera composer Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, 27, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, Calif. while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Scattered Snow	Snow Showers Likely	Partly Cloudy
40°	34°	47° / 24°	30° / 15°	26° / 20°	32° / 23°

Local Outlook

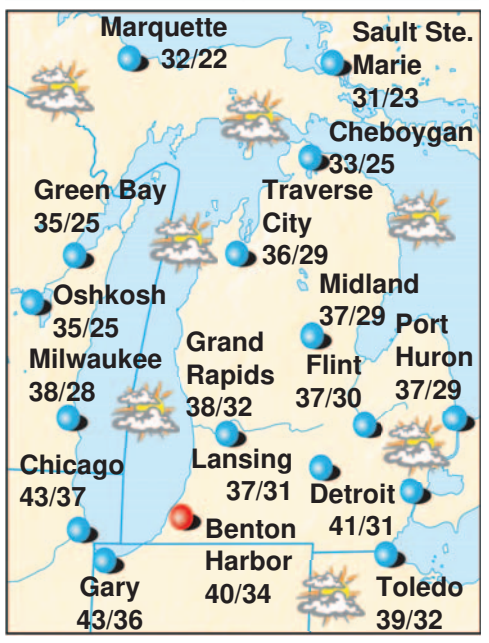
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 40°, humidity of 71%. West southwest wind 8 to 17 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 34°. South southeast wind 9 to 21 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 26°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:11 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:17 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 1:25 p.m.
Moonset ..... 12:50 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
12/29	1/6	1/13	1/20

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	45°
Low	33°
Normal High	33°
Normal Low	20°
Record High	54° in 2015
Record Low	-5° in 2000

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.02"
Month to date	1.21"
Normal for month	1.54"
Year to date	33.24"
Normal Year to date	36.87"

Air Quality

Yesterday 74
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

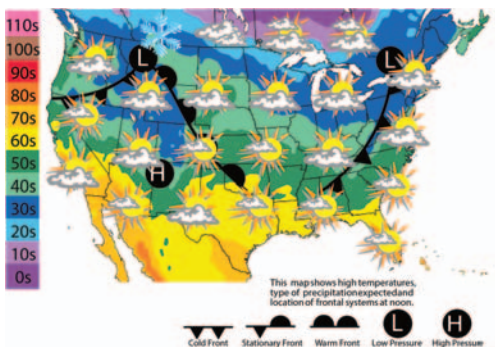
Weather Trivia

Did the Greeks and Romans often erect temples where lightning struck?

Answer: Yes, they worshiped the gods there in an attempt to appease them.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 22, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NNW wind 8 to 15 kt. Winds could gust as high as 21 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 6 ft subsiding to 2 ft. Water temperature 40 degrees.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. West wind 7 to 16 mph. Expect cloudy skies Wednesday with scattered rain and snow, highs in the 30s and 40s. South wind 13 to 16 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s and 40s. West southwest wind 8 to 17 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with scattered rain, highs in the 40s. South southwest wind 19 to 22 mph.

CASES

From page A1

Facilities with recent large outbreaks, like Royalton Manor in St. Joseph, saw just four new resident cases, seven new staff cases and four new resident deaths last week.

Riveridge Rehab and Health Center in Niles, which had been dealing with many resident cases, reported none this week, and just one new staff cases. It did, however, report nine new resident deaths.

Also reporting deaths, but no new cases was Graceway at Countryside in South Haven. It reported seven resident deaths and two staff cases.

The outbreak at Pine Ridge Rehab and Nursing Center in Stevensville slowed to just three new resident cases and five new staff cases, according to the state's report.

The Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac is still dealing with an outbreak, but it seems to have slowed, with 19 new resident cases being reported. Last week it had reported 32. It also had two resident deaths and 11 staff member cases.

A few other area facilities reported new cases in residents and staff this week. View the whole report at michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

BIG

From page A1

on Tibet, including a statement of U.S. policy on how to determine the country's next spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and the decriminalization of the use of the Swiss coat of arms.

It was a dizzying if familiar finish in the Capitol, where lawmakers often procrastinate on passing bills – even those with broad support – until they are on the cusp of heading home for a holiday break. It's why such bills are often called "Christmas trees," trimmed with legislative ornaments, and stand among the most glaring symptoms of a broken Congress where the two parties can't agree until they absolutely have to.

Still, the package was an extraordinary response to the global pandemic – the second major bill this year – and was negotiated almost entirely behind closed doors by congressional leadership. And because it includes long-awaited virus relief for businesses and individuals, all the additional items were catching a free ride to President Donald Trump's desk.

Some frustrated members of both parties seemed unlikely to go along even with the bill destined to pass.

"NOT ONE Member of Congress will have had time to read through it before voting later today," tweeted Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C. "This is awful governance, and a disservice to the American people."

Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York echoed that thought: "It's not good enough to hear about what's in the bill," she tweeted just before it was released. "Members of Congress need to see & read the bills we are expected to vote on. I know it's 'controversial' & I get in trouble for sharing things like this, but the people of this country deserve to know. They deserve better."

Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., said: "I can't in good faith vote for legislation of this magnitude without first thoroughly examining its contents and how it affects North Carolinians and their futures." He called a $600 check for individuals suffering economically "too little, too late."

Jacquelyn Martin / AP

Dusk falls over the Capitol on Monday in Washington.

Some of the unrelated items weren't controversial. There's relief for victims of steep surprise medical bills and the approval of the two museums that will honor American Latinos and women. A Republican senator blocked the two museums earlier this month even though they have broad bipartisan support.

Other items in the package hadn't passed on their own due to partisan bickering that stalled much of the Senate's work. They included clean energy provisions, the result of a bipartisan compromise, and legislation renewing the nation's intelligence programs. The bill also overhauls the aircraft certification process in the wake of crashes of Boeing 737 MAX planes – legislation that the House Transportation Committee called "one of the most significant overhauls to the FAA certification reform process in recent history."

Several high-ticket items won inclusion, including an almost 400-page water resources bill that targets $10 billion for 46 Army Corps of Engineers flood control, environmental and coastal protection projects. There was also $7 billion to increase access to broadband, $4 billion to help other nations vaccinate their people, $14 billion for cash-starved transit systems, Amtrak and airports.

And then there were the smaller items stowed away in the thousands of pages – important to some lawmakers, but unlikely to win coveted floor time in a freestanding bill.

One section repealed a variety of little-known criminal penalties for minor violations, including the transportation of the water hyacinths and the use of the Swiss coat of arms. The section also decriminalizes the unauthorized application of theft prevention decals or devices, and the unauthorized use of the 4-H Club emblem, the "Smokey Bear" character or name, the "Woodsy Owl" character, name or slogan, or "The Golden Eagle Insignia."

Though most of the items were listed in lengthy bill summaries, it was unlikely that most lawmakers would even know those things were there.

"Here are the 5,593 pages of language which I'm now perusing and on which we'll be voting in about six hours," tweeted Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips, a Democrat who worked on the virus relief compromise.

Phillips asked where he could find Evelyn Wood, the late American educator who popularized speed reading.

GROTHOUS

From page A1

Do you know how many lights there are all together?

We get asked that all the time. It's got to be a million.

You haven't counted them?

(Laughing) No, we haven't counted them. I guess we could count each strand that we put on a tree and figure it out that way. But then we've got these figurines like the snowflake and the bear. There's quite a few lights on each figurine as well, so it's a big number.

Do bulbs burn out very often?

Actually they break more than they burn out. Just from the handling, when we're putting them in storage, pulling them out of storage. But yes, they do burn out. We go through a fair amount of replacement bulbs every year.

Is that something that somebody with the city checks for regularly to make sure the lights are actually on?

Yes. Just about daily. Usually one of the first things in the morning one of the staff comes down and walks the bluff and makes sure everything's on and nothing has gone out.

Does it come on automatically, like on a timer?

It does now. This year is the first year it's all controlled on timers. So the lights come on around 5:30 p.m., go off around midnight, come back on at 5:30 in the morning, and go back off at 8:30.

Prior to that, once we turned them on they were just on all the time.

Did that save some money, putting them on timers?

We've done some calculations and we believe it will, but it's not a huge payback because the system to put it on the timers was not necessarily cheap. It's a complicated process. But there will be savings.

Do you have any idea of the annual cost to do this?

It's part of the public works budget. Most of the cost is the labor, the hours that it takes, and those are people who would be working anyway.

The staff that does the lights is the parks and cemetery staff, part of public works. We start shutting parks down in early October, then in December when the lights are done, we have snow removal.

In the five years you've been doing this, have you dealt with all kinds of weather?

Oh yes. This year was a really good year. We've had years where we had snow in mid-November, so there were days we weren't doing anything light-related because we were doing snow removal.

We've had rain, we've had snow. We deal with the wind. So sometimes that impacts what we can and can't do. The way we wrap some of the trees, when we're trying to get lights up into the crown of the tree, it's pretty impossible to throw it up there when the wind is blowing.

Then the other side of it is taking it all down. Everything stays up into February. Usually we turn the lights off right after Valentine's Day.

But I remember one year we were into April before we finished because the weather didn't cooperate. We had quite a bit of snow. It stuck around, it was cold and windy and there were several inches on the ground. We can't pick up all the extension cords. There are things we can't find because we can't see it.

Do you have kids?

I do. Ages 11, 8 and 4.

Do they like this display?

They love it. We actually came down Saturday and walked the bluff and we got some hot chocolate afterwards.

When you're walking around down here, do you ever hear comments that make you feel good about this display?

Oh yes. Our staff, when they're out putting them up they get a lot of comments like "Oh, we look forward to this every year." More so this year than any because of the pandemic. This display is something normal. Even though we didn't have the big kickoff, we still put the lights up and people can still come down and walk the bluff. It brings a little bit of normalcy. People have been very appreciative.

Do you have any stories about it breaking down?

(Laughing) Yes. A couple years ago, it was the big kick-off for Light Up the Bluff. The choir was singing and we turned the Christmas tree on and that was fine. Then we had the countdown for lighting up the bluff and flipped all the switches and the whole section from the cannon to the gazebo didn't come on. At this point, it's dark, you can't see anything. How am I going to get this back on? First, I ran to the breakers and they were all on. So we're out here with flashlights, following extension cords, trying to figure out what was wrong. It ended up being that the people doing the sound for the kickoff ceremony had actually just unplugged it. So we're out here wandering around, and it turned out they'd unplugged the main plug to plug something in for their sound system, not realizing what they'd done.

On Christmas Day a couple years ago, somebody called Berrien County dispatch to tell us the Christmas tree wasn't on so public safety called me, and we got somebody out here and it had been raining the day before, moisture had gotten into one of the plugs. We were able to get it back on.

So I get calls, "Why aren't the lights on?" Well, I don't know. (Shrugging) They should be.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

BIDEN

From page A1

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband are expected to receive their first shots next week.

Other top government officials have been in the first wave of Americans to be inoculated against COVID-19 as part of the largest vaccination campaign in the nation's history.

Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other lawmakers were given doses Friday. They chose to publicize their injections as part of a campaign to convince Americans that the vaccines are safe and effective amid skepticism, especially among Republicans.

President Donald Trump is discussing with his doctors the timing for taking the vaccine, the White House has said.

Trump was hospitalized with COVID-19 in October and given an experimental monoclonal antibody treatment that he credited for his swift recovery. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory board has said people who received that treatment should wait at least 90 days to be vaccinated to avoid any potential interference.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, and other experts have recommended that Trump be vaccinated without delay as a precaution.

hp SPORTS

MSU 'awful' in loss at Northwestern

By CHRIS SOLARI
Detroit Free Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Thomas Kithier set the screen and rolled to the basket. Aaron Henry bounced a pass to him as he cut.

Kithier caught the ball and elevated toward the rim. The Michigan Statebasketball sophomore collided midair with Northwestern's Robbie Beran, flipped the ball off the backboard and fell to the floor.

The Wildcats' Miller Kopp rebounded, then quickly whipped an outlet pass to Beran, who took two dribbles and zipped a perfect chest pass to Pete Nance running the floor in transition. Two long strides, and Nance threw down a left-handed dunk over Henry to finish the break.

It's the kind of basketball Tom Izzo loves from his Spartans. Only it was being played by Northwestern, in abundance, all night Sunday.

The Wildcats didn't just shock No. 4 MSU, 79-65, at Welsh-Ryan Arena in the Big Ten opener for both teams. They earned their first win over a top-5 opponent since 1979 with aggressive defense, punishing rebounding and precision passing on offense.

The Spartans did none of those things, nor did the two things their coach wrote on the whiteboard in their locker room before the game – never relax and play with a sense of urgency. The humbling performance left Izzo completely befuddled and utterly humiliated.

"I'm disappointed and to be honest with you confused," the Hall of Fame coach said. "That was one of the more inept performances of my 26 years. It's kind of a harsh statement. I'm blaming myself, I'm the one that has to have my team ready. I didn't think we're ready from the opening second."

To say it wasn't the start MSU (6-1, 0-1) wanted in defending its Big Ten title is an understatement. To say the Spartans looked like a completely different team than their first six games might be a little closer to reality.

Shots clanging off the rim one after another. Defensive breakdowns. Joey Hauser and Rocket Watts struggling offensively and defensively. Joshua Langford fouling out with nearly 7 minutes to play.

"We just didn't come into play," said Langford, who

See **SPARTANS**, page B2

Michigan State guard Rocket Watts, right, shoots over Northwestern guard Boo Buie during the first half of Sunday's game.
Nam Y. Huh / AP

'Bama next for Irish

Jeff Siner / AP

Clemson linebacker Baylon Spector, bottom center, and Notre Dame running back Kyren Williams, right, scramble to grab a fumble during the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game Saturday.

CFP: Alabama-Notre Dame, Clemson-Ohio St as Aggies left out

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

A season filled with uncertainty brought on by the pandemic will end with a perfectly predictable College Football Playoff.

Alabama vs. Notre Dame. Clemson vs. Ohio State. Four of the bluest of blue bloods and the teams that have comprised the top four in the rankings for nearly two months. Notre Dame was picked Sunday over Texas A&M for the final spot, ending what little drama there had been.

"It's been a unique season in so many ways," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said.

Not not when it comes to the teams playing for the national championship.

The top four teams in the selection committee's first rankings of the season were the same teams at the end, just in different order. Alabama, Notre Dame, Clemson and Ohio State have also held the first four spots in the AP Top 25 since Oct. 25.

Only 11 schools have ever reached the playoff and all four of these participants have been there before.

The Fighting Irish and Crimson Tide will meet Jan. 1 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, after a late pandemic-related relocation from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Tigers and Buckeyes are set to play the same day at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans if all goes according to plan.

The national champion is scheduled to be determined Jan. 11 in suburban Miami.

The Fighting Irish (10-1) are back in the playoff for the second time in three seasons, becoming the first team to lose a conference title game and make the final four. It was a novelty made possible only because of the pandemic, which pushed the famously independent Irish into a conference for the first time in school history.

The Atlantic Coast Conference is the second league to have two teams in the playoff, joining the SEC in 2017.

After sitting second in the CFP rankings for a month, Notre Dame was blown out 34-10 by Clemson in the ACC championship. That opened the door for No. 5 Texas A&M (8-1), but the Aggies were unable to become the third team in the playoff's seven-year history to make the field without even winning its conference division.

Selection committee chairman Gary Barta, the Iowa athletic director, said Notre Dame's extra victory against a ranked opponent helped give the Irish an edge over Texas A&M.

"A great part of our discussion was related to those two resumes," Barta said.

Notre Dame beat Clemson and North Carolina, which had been 15th in the previous playoff rankings. Texas A&M's only victory against a CFP team was Florida. The Aggies played Alabama in October and lost by 28 points.

The decision didn't go over well in Aggieland: Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond tweeted: "JOKE." The Aggies can take out their frustrations on North Carolina in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2.

Barta said the disparate number of games played by contenders – along with far fewer cross-conference games than usual —- was a challenge for the committee all season. But Ohio State's six-game schedule was not as important to the panel as the Buckeyes going undefeated and winning the Big Ten.

Oklahoma surged to sixth in the final rankings after closing with seven straight victories and a Big 12 title. The Sooners will face seventh-place Florida in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 30.

Unbeaten Cincinnati finished eighth, making the Bearcats the

See **CFP**, page B2

La Russa resolves DUI case, feels 'deep remorse and regret'

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — White Sox manager Tony La Russa says he doesn't have a drinking problem. He also says he has to prove that with his behavior.

The 76-year-old La Russa pleaded guilty Monday to a lesser charge to resolve misdemeanor drunken driving charges stemming from his arrest nearly 10 months ago on a freeway in metro Phoenix.

La Russa also pleaded guilty to driving under the influence in Florida in 2007 after police found him asleep inside his running SUV at a stop light and smelling of alcohol. After the 2007 case was resolved, La Russa accepted responsibility and said it would never happen again.

La Russa's Arizona arrest occurred Feb. 24, but the charges were filed Oct. 28 – one day before he was hired to manage the Chicago White Sox. He pleaded guilty to reckless driving in Maricopa County Justice Court and was sentenced to one day of home detention, a fine of nearly $1,400 and 20 hours of community service.

"I know I don't have a drinking problem, just like I know I made a serious mistake in February," La Russa said on a conference call with reporters, "and where I am right now is to prove that I don't have a drinking problem and to prove it every day off the field that I'm going to handle it and what's painfully clear to me is if I have a drink I will not drive. There's always an alternative."

Authorities say La Russa, who won a World Series with Oakland and two more with St. Louis, blew out a tire on the grey Lexus he was driving. The Hall of Fame manager smashed into a curb, leaving the vehicle smoking. Tests taken the night of his arrest showed his blood alcohol concentration was .095 – above the legal limit of .08.

La Russa said he feels "deep remorse and regret" about what happened. He underwent 20 hours of alcohol counseling after his arrest, which he described as "very helpful."

Jim Mone / AP

Chicago defensive tackle Brent Urban (92) chases Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) during the second half of Sunday's game.

Bears focused on avoiding letdown vs. Jaguars

By GENE CHAMBERLAIN
Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Forget about draft position and postseason chances. Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy is expecting a challenge when his team visits lowly Jacksonville.

Chicago stayed in the playoff race with a 33-27 victory at Minnesota on Sunday, evening its record at 7-7. The Bears have won two in a row since a six-game losing streak, while the Jaguars (1-13) are in the lead in the race for the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft after the New York Jets' 23-20 victory at the Los Angeles Rams.

While Jacksonville is playing out the string in another losing season, Nagy brushed off the idea that the Bears might have an easy weekend in Florida.

"It's two real simple things for us," Nagy said Monday. "No. 1, if anybody watched that Rams-Jets game yesterday you can see what it means to play in the NFL. It does not matter. And No. 2, we haven't done anything yet. So that's the way we approach this thing."

Chicago trails Arizona by one game in the playoff chase for the final NFC wild card, and Nagy pointed out it hasn't been that long since the Bears were a struggling team.

Then the running game took off and quarterback Mitchell Trubisky improved, giving the Bears a legitimate shot at the playoffs.

After Sunday's game against the Jaguars, the Bears host NFC North champion Green Bay in their regular-season finale.

The Cardinals face San Francisco and the Rams in their last two games.

Nagy pointed out the Jaguars have played close games even if their last two were blowout losses to Tennessee and Baltimore.

The Jaguars lost 27-25 to Cleveland and 27-24 in overtime to Minnesota before the two blowout losses.

"So the last thing we're going to do is look past anybody and that's just not where we're at," Nagy said. "So we're going to be completely focused."

See **BEARS**, page B2

SPARTANS

From page B1

had nine points before fouling out. "We messed up a lot of coverages defensively. We just, we just weren't there as a unit overall, and we take full responsibility for that as players."

MSU – coming off finals week and having not played since blasting Oakland to close nonconference play the previous Sunday, 109-91 – shot just 38.8 percent from the field, going 8 for 31 from 3-point range. Northwestern scorched the nets at a 52.9 percent clip, making 10 of 21 from deep. The Spartans had just one more rebound, 33-32, but failed to turn any of their 11 offensive rebounds into second-chance points.

"Those are all effort-related stats. Those are what we're usually really good at," Izzo said. "Tonight, we were awful at them. And they kind of all fit together.

"Aaron said something good at halftime – 'We gotta do what this program does, we gotta defend, rebounding and run.' I told them in the last two minutes, 'You can talk it, but you got to do it.' And we didn't do it tonight."

The Wildcats (4-1, 1-0) went on an 11-0 run after MSU scored the first four points while enduring a 2-for-10 shooting drought over the first 5-plus minutes. The Spartans tied the game 16-all on a Foster Loyer 3-pointer with 11:35 to play but never regained the lead.

MSU trailed at half by 13 points and never got it back to single digits in the second half.

"A former coach here, Brian Gregory, had a line when he was here my freshman year," Langford said. "He said, 'What starts bad ends bad.' And we didn't start well."

Northwestern took advantage of across-the-board defensive breakdowns that allowed Boo Buie to put together a career performance for the second time in two years against MSU. He had 26 points with five 3-pointers against the Spartans on Dec. 18, 2019, leading a furious comeback MSU withstood for a 77-72 win.

The 6-foot-2 sophomore guard scored 30 points Sunday on 9 of 15 shooting with four assists. He did it outside, making 5 of 6 from 3-point range, and off the dribble by taking Rocket Watts and anyone who dared attempt to guard him to the basket with relative ease all game.

"We just go out and we play as hard as we can, we listen to the coaches, we lock in," said Buie, who is the first player with two games of 26 or more points against the Spartans in their career since at least 2010. "Whoever's night it is, we try to get them the ball. We just make sure we play hard and defend."

Nance had 15 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Guard Ty Berry had 12 points, including three 3-pointers. The Wildcats got whatever they wanted from outside, in the paint, at the rim, on backdoor cuts and in transition against the Spartans' defense.

"It was consistent, too," Izzo said. "My three or four best players all struggled. And you got to give (the Wildcats) credit, though. I don't want to not give them credit. Because (coach Chris Collins) did a hell of a job. They were better coached, they played harder, there was a sense of purpose. …

"I did think we had a pretty good game plan, I really did. We just didn't execute it at all."

Henry had 11 points to lead MSU, which hosts No. 12 Wisconsin at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Breslin Center in East Lansing. Malik Hall added 10 points and nine rebounds, and Gabe Brown scored 10 with five boards.

BEARS

From page B1

What's working

Handing the ball to David Montgomery has turned around the Bears season.

He became the first Bears rusher since Jordan Howard in 2016 with at least 100 yards in back-to-back games after he gained 146 yards on 32 carries against Minnesota. He has gone over 100 in three of the last four games.

Chicago also has been helped by changes on its offensive line, with rookie Sam Mustipher becoming the starting center and Alex Bars coming in to play right guard. Cody Whitehair moved from center to left guard, and Germain Ifedi shifted from right guard to right tackle.

In the four games since the changes on the line, Montgomery has averaged 108.5 yards. He averaged 52.4 yards in his first nine games.

"We were running a new (blocking) scheme, so now everybody's getting it down and it's going well," Montgomery said. "The offense, we've started trusting each other and we're having fun doing it."

What needs help

Defense against the run. Chicago allowed Dalvin Cook to rush for 132 yards on 24 attempts. Cook's rushing total was the most yards the Bears have given up to any back this season.

"We don't like the fact that we gave up so much rushing yards," linebacker Danny Trevathan said. "That's not us at all. We're gonna get that figured out. I know that for sure."

Stock up

Wide receiver Darnell Mooney. The 2020 fifth-round draft pick made four more receptions against the Vikings, including an 8-yard touchdown. Mooney now has 46 catches on the season. On Sunday, he broke a team rookie receptions record for wide receivers that had stood since Harlon Hill made 45 in 1954.

Stock down

Wide receiver Anthony Miller. After surging with 26 catches in six games, Miller has stepped back with just three receptions for 29 yards over the past two games.

Injured

Running back Cordarrelle Patterson left Sunday's win with a knee injury and had only one carry. He did return, but only to return kicks. Nagy is uncertain about Patterson's availability for this week. ... Tight end Demetrius Harris suffered an ankle injury of unknown severity and left Sunday's game. ... Cornerback Buster Skrine (concussion), cornerback Jaylon Johnson (shoulder) and safety Deon Bush (foot) missed the game and their status will be updated later in the week.

Key number

3 – The Bears have scored 30 or more points in each of the last three games. The last time they were able to do this was in 2013.

Next steps

At Jacksonville (1-13) on Sunday.

Lions firing more employees than winning games lately

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

Ben Margot / AP

Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford is tackled by Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Teair Tart during the second half of Sunday's game.

The Detroit Lions have more fired employees than victories the past two months.

Detroit dismissed special teams coordinator Brayden Coombs on Monday, three-plus weeks after parting ways with general manager Bob Quinn and coach Matt Patricia.

The Lions announced their latest move a day after falling to 1-2 under interim coach Darrell Bevell, 2-6 since the start of November and 5-9 overall this season.

Patricia hired Coombs in January after he worked with the Cincinnati Bengals for 10 seasons. And even though special teams has been a relative strength for a struggling team this season, the 34-year-old assistant lost his job because Bevell said Coombs called for a trick play after being told to punt.

"There's got to be repercussions," Bevell said.

The Lions were losing by two touchdowns at Tennessee early in the fourth quarter, facing a fourth-and-4 at their 31, when they came up short on a fake punt that Bevell said he didn't authorize.

Detroit's C.J. Moore took the direct snap and was stopped a yard shy of the first down in the 46-25 loss to the Titans.

Bevell said if he wanted to go for it, he would've left banged-up quarterback Matthew Stafford on the field even though he had been hit on plays preceding the fourth down.

"I thought it would be best to flip the field," said Bevell, explaining why he wanted to punt in that situation.

Bevell said it was his idea to fire Coombs, he talked to team president Rod Wood about it and the topic was discussed by the team's interim management team.

"Clearly, it was an organizational decision," Bevell said. "It's not one I made on my own, but I did have input."

Detroit's players had the day off on Monday and Bevell said he was only able to inform some of them of Coomb's departure before a team meeting on Tuesday.

The decision was questioned by return specialist Jamal Agnew on Twitter.

"What we doin man, c'mon," Agnew posted shortly after the move was announced Monday morning.

What's working

Marvin Jones is making the most of his opportunity to be the team's top target with Kenny Golladay out. He is also increasing his value on the free-agent market in the last season of his five-year contract.

Jones, who matched a career high with 10 receptions at Tennessee, had 100-plus yards receiving and a touchdown for the second time in three weeks.

The 30-year-old receiver has 65 catches, equaling his career high with Cincinnati five years ago, 779 yards receiving and seven touchdowns.

What needs help

Detroit's defense. The banged-up unit has given up an average of five-plus touchdowns over the past four games as it struggles to stop the run or the pass.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	407	340
Miami	9	5	0	.643	352	257
New England	6	8	0	.429	289	301
N.Y. Jets	1	13	0	.071	206	413

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	399	320
Tennessee	10	4	0	.714	436	361
Houston	4	10	0	.286	315	386
Jacksonville	1	13	0	.071	275	423

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	349	237
Cleveland	10	4	0	.714	368	374
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	403	287
Cincinnati	2	10	1	.192	244	338

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	13	1	0	.929	435	310
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	377	421
Denver	5	9	0	.357	276	395
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	327	389

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	8	0	.429	302	295
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	339	433
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	244	311
Phila.	4	9	1	.321	303	361

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	397	297
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	401	321
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	355	353
Carolina	4	10	0	.286	323	356

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	434	339
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	318
Minnesota	6	8	0	.429	360	388
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	335	435

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	10	4	0	.714	413	339
L.A. Rams	9	5	0	.643	345	269
Arizona	8	6	0	.571	391	329
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	333	352

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's Game
L.A. Chargers 30, Las Vegas 27, OT

Saturday's Game
Buffalo 48, Denver 19
Green Bay 24, Carolina 16

Sunday's Games
Baltimore 40, Jacksonville 14
Chicago 33, Minnesota 27
Dallas 41, San Francisco 33
Indianapolis 27, Houston 20
Miami 22, New England 12
Seattle 20, Washington 15
Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 27
Tennessee 46, Detroit 25
Arizona 33, Phila. 26
N.Y. Jets 23, L.A. Rams 20
Kansas City 32, New Orleans 29
Cleveland 20, N.Y. Giants 6

Monday's Game
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

Friday, Dec. 25
Minnesota at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 26
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Phila. at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 28
Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 20, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Gonzaga (61)	4-0	1597	1
2. Baylor (3)	5-0	1538	2
3. Kansas	7-1	1426	5
4. Iowa	6-1	1365	3
5. Villanova	7-1	1304	7
6. Houston	5-0	1272	6
7. West Virginia	7-1	1225	8
8. Tennessee	4-0	1109	10
9. Wisconsin	6-1	1051	12
10. Texas	7-1	1035	11
11. Rutgers	6-0	878	19
12. Michigan St.	6-1	839	4
13. Creighton	6-2	773	9
14. Missouri	5-0	768	16
15. Texas Tech	6-2	661	14
16. Virginia	3-1	510	17
17. North Carolina	5-2	492	22
18. Illinois	5-3	468	13
19. Michigan	6-0	367	25
20. Duke	3-2	352	21
21. Florida St.	4-1	335	15
22. Xavier	8-0	249	-
23. Ohio St.	6-1	245	20
24. Virginia Tech	6-1	181	-
25. Oregon	6-1	167	-

Others receiving votes: San Diego St. 146, Richmond 142, Saint Louis 64, Arkansas 54, Indiana 53, Clemson 28, Florida 20, Georgia 19, Colorado 13, BYU 9, Purdue 9, Louisville 8, Northwestern 7, UCF 6, Minnesota 4, UCLA 3, Oklahoma St. 3, LSU 2, Western Kentucky 2, SMU 1.

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 20, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Stanford (26)	6-0	742	1
2. Louisville (1)	5-0	693	2
3. UConn (1)	4-0	676	3
4. NC State (2)	8-0	674	4
5. South Carolina	5-1	641	5
6. Arizona	6-0	600	6
7. Baylor	7-1	558	7
8. Oregon	6-0	557	7
9. Texas A&M	8-0	491	10
10. UCLA	5-1	461	11
11. Arkansas	8-1	435	12
12. Mississippi St.	5-1	417	13
13. Kentucky	7-1	391	9
14. Maryland	5-1	381	14
15. Northwestern	3-0	325	16
16. Ohio St.	4-0	255	17
17. Michigan	5-0	248	19
18. DePaul	4-2	203	24
19. Indiana	3-2	175	15
20. Texas	5-1	168	22
20. South Florida	4-1	168	23
22. Syracuse	5-1	107	18
23. Gonzaga	4-2	82	25
24. Missouri St.	4-2	76	20
25. Michigan St.	6-0	55	-

Others receiving votes: Georgia 30, North Carolina 28, Oregon St. 25, South Dakota St. 21, Iowa St. 19, Tennessee 12, Arizona St. 8, Rutgers 6, Iowa 6, Wake Forest 4, Georgia Tech 4, Rice 3, Villanova 3, Alabama 2.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance

Canceled
Bahamas Bowl
Birmingham Bowl
Celebration Bowl
Fenway Bowl
Frisco Bowl
Guaranteed Rate Bowl
Hawaii Bowl
Holiday Bowl
Independence Bowl
LA Bowl
Las Vegas Bowl
Military Bowl
Pinstripe Bowl
Quick Lane Bowl
Redbox Bowl
Sun Bowl

Monday, Dec. 21
Myrtle Beach Bowl
Conway, S.C.
Appalachian St. vs. North Texas, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Today's Games
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Tulane vs. Nevada, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
UCF vs. BYU, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 23
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana Tech vs. Georgia Southern, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Montgomery (Ala.) Bowl
Memphis vs. FAU, 7 p.m., (ESPN or ESPN2)

Thursday, Dec. 24
New Mexico Bowl
Frisco, Texas
Hawaii vs. Houston, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 25
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Buffalo vs. Marshall, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 26
Gasparilla Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
UAB vs. South Carolina, Noon, (ABC)
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 12 Coastal Carolina vs. Liberty, Noon, (ESPN)
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
No. 19 Louisiana vs. UTSA 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Lendingtree Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
W. Kentucky vs. Georgia St., 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Cheez-It Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 18 Miami vs. No. 21 Oklahoma St., 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
No. 20 Texas vs. Colorado, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 30
Duke's Mayo Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
No. 15 Iowa vs. Missouri, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
No. 6 Oklahoma vs. No. 7 Florida, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
No. 24 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
No. 22 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 4 p.m. (CBSSN)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Tennessee vs. West Virginia, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
Houston
TCU vs. Arkansas, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 1
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
No. 8 Cincinnati vs. No. 9 Georgia, Noon (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 14 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC)
College Football Playoff
Semifinal Game 1
Arlington, Texas
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan 2
Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 23 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN)
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
No. 11 Indian vs. Ole Miss, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
No. 10 Iowa vs. No. 25 Oregon, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 5 Texas A&M vs. No. 13 North Carolina, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 11
College Football Championship
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Semifinal Game 1 winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms on a minor league contract with LHP Fernando Abad, C Nick Ciuffo, RHP Claudio Custodio and RHP Conner Greene.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Announced that the Milwaukee Bucks violated league rules governing the timing of this season's free agency discussions and that the league has rescinded their 2022 second-round draft pick.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Announced the team will not be extending general manager Marty Hurney's contract.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Promoted QB Kevin Hogan from the practice squad. Placed CB Brian Allen on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released P Ryan Allen from the practice squad.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
FC DALLAS — Agreed to terms with D Bressan on a one-year contract. Acquired G Phelipe Megiolaro on loan from Gremio through the end of the 2021 season. Acquired D Jose Antonio Martinez from SD Eibar on a permanent transfer and signed the player using targeted allocation money.
NASHVILLE SC — Traded a 2021 international spot to Vancouver for $175,000 in general allocation money.
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Acquired D Christian Mafla.
REAL SALT LAKE — Announced the retirement of M Kyle Beckerman.
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS — Acquired a 2021 international slot from Nashville SC in exchange for $175,000 in 2021 general allocation money.

CFP

From page B1

top-ranked team among Group of Five conference champions and guaranteeing them a spot in one of the New Year's Six bowls. Cincinnati will meet Georgia in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Day.

Pac-12 champion Oregon will face Iowa State in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2.

Notre Dame's reward will be a matchup with Alabama (11-0), the Southeastern Conference champion that is back in the playoff for the sixth time after missing out last year. The last time the Fighting Irish and Crimson Tide played was the 2012 BCS championship game and the Tide won 42-14.

Clemson (10-1) is in the CP for the sixth straight season, only missing out on the first playoff. Ohio State (6-0) is making its fourth appearance. The Tigers have won two playoff titles and the Buckeyes won the first after the 2014 season.

Clemson-Ohio State is a rematch of last season's dramatic semifinal in Arizona, won 29-23 by the Tigers. The two teams also met at the Fiesta Bowl in the 2016 playoff and Clemson beat the Buckeyes 31-0.

Instead of having more than three weeks to prepare for the playoff, the altered regular-season schedules mean the semifinals are 12 days away.

"It's very different to prepare," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It's basically like an open date."

One of the semifinals was scheduled to be played at the Rose Bowl, but a move was announced Saturday night after coaches and school officials from playoff contenders complained about California's COVID-19 restrictions that ban spectators from sporting events and would have made it impossible for players' families to attend the game.

Playing the game at the home of the Dallas Cowboys will allow 16,000 fans to attend. Because of that, Barta said, the committee placed top-seeded Alabama there to give it the possibility of more of a home-field advantage.

The Superdome is currently set to have 3,000 fans for the Sugar Bowl, but that number could go up.

This season has been filled with disruptions as teams navigated COVID-19 outbreaks, contact tracing that sent players into extended quarantine and daily uncertainty about whether games will be played. More than 100 games were canceled or postponed since late August and more than a dozen teams have already said they have no plans to play in a bowl even if they are invited.

Ohio State had three regular-season games canceled and the Big Ten had to change a minimum games played rule earlier this month just so the unbeaten Buckeyes could play in the conference title game Saturday against Northwestern.

Still, 87 percent of the games scheduled were played.

College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock has said a team selected to a semifinal would not be replaced if it could not play on the scheduled date. The game would be postponed if necessary and a every effort would be made to make it up.

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING DEC. 22

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelorette ((F)) The bachelors meet Tayshia's family. (N)				:01 Supermarket Sweep (N)	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	The Price Is Right at Night (N) CC		Let's Make a Deal Primetime (N) CC		NCIS A possible terrorist plot is revealed.	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	The Voice CC		Saturday Night Live Popular Christmas-themed sketches. CC			
FOX 17 222 28 32	Modern Family	NEXT "FILE 9; FILE 10" ((SF)) NEXT targets Congresswoman Beatty. (N)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Glee Club & Symphony-Christmas		All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 CC			Magic of Christmas
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Swamp Thing "Loose Ends" CC		Tell Me a Story "Favorite Son" (N) CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline "Inside the Hunt for El Chapo"		Chicago P.D. "Fathers and Sons"		Chicago P.D. "True or False"	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Swamp Thing "Loose Ends" CC		Tell Me a Story "Favorite Son" (N) CC		King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland The family keeps secrets.		Highway to Heaven CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	:01 Storage Wars	:32 Storage Wars
AMC	Love Actually	★★ Four Christmases ('08) Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon. CC				★★ Fred Claus ('07) CC	
Animal	Tanked	:01 Tanked: Sea-Lebrity Edition (N)					
BET	6:00 ★ Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas ('13)					Best Man Hol	
Big Ten	College Basketball			College Basketball Purdue at Iowa. (N)			
Bravo	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows
Cartoon	Steven Universe: The Movie			American	American	American	Fam. Guy
Cinemax	★★ Firestarter	★★ Stuber ('19) Dave Bautista, Kumail Nanjiani. CC			:35 ★★★ Get Shorty ('95) John Travolta. CC		
CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Cheerleaders	
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank CC		8:58 Shark Tank		:04 Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Drunk	Drunk	Dunham	
Discovery	Moonshiners:	Moonshiners "No Ordinary Run" (N) CC				Moonshiners: Deck the Stills (N) CC	
Disney	Big City	Toy Story	Mickey	Holiday Magic Quest		Jessie CC	
DIY	Off Grid	Alaskan Glacier		Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid	
E!	6:30 ★★ Last Holiday			★★ Last Holiday ('06) Queen Latifah.			
ESPN	College Football RoofClaim.com Boca Raton Bowl -- UCF vs BYU.						SportsC.
ESPN2	College Basketball			College Basketball West Virginia at Kansas.			
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 18, 2000.				College Football	
Food	Chopped	Chopped CC		Chopped (N) CC		Supermarket	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Tennis	NFL Football Detroit Lions at Tennessee Titans.					Spartans
Freefrm	:40 ★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ('92, Children's) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. CC						The Night Before
FX	★★ Skyscraper	★★ The Fate of the Furious ('17) Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson. A mysterious woman forces Dom to betray the crew. CC					
Golf	PGA Golf	PGA Tour Golf BMW Championship, Final Round. CC					
Hallmark	Twelfth Day	A Christmas Carousel ('20, Romance) Rachel Boston, Neal Bledsoe. CC				Good Morning Christmas! ('20) CC	
HBO	6:45 ★★ Battleship ('12) Taylor Kitsch, Rihanna. CC			Under the Grapefruit Tree: CC		News, World	Industry CC
History	Oak Is	Digging Deeper		Curse-Island		Beyond Oak Island	
HGTV	Fixer to	Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Welcome	7 Little Johnstons		Fat Fabulous		Welcome	
Lifetime	Santa Squad	The Christmas High Note ('20) Jamie Luner, Johnny Messner. (P). CC				:03 Inn Love by Christmas ('20) CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	How Lose	Teen Mom 2 (N)		Catfish: The TV		Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Soccer	Blackhawks Classics From May 11, 2010.				New Era	Bensinger
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Football Teams TBA. (Taped) CC					
Nick	Loud	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Life Below Zero (N)		Atlas of Cursed		:01 Life Below Zero	
Oxygen	Unsolved Mysteries	Unsolved Mysteries CC		Unsolved Mysteries CC		Unsolved Mysteries CC	
Parmt	5:30 Rocky II		★★★ Rocky III ('82) Sylvester Stallone. CC				
Showtime	:00 Ray Donovan	Your Honor "Part Three" CC		Inside the NFL (N) CC		Shameless Debbie loses track of Franny.	
Starz	:07 Outlander	:10 Outlander Claire reveals the truth to Brianna. CC			:42 Power Book II: Ghost "Family First"		Out of Sight ('98)
STZENC	:10 ★★ Young Guns ('88, Western) Emilio Estevez. CC			★★ Young Guns II ('90, Western) Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland. CC			
SyFy	★ Death Wish ('18)	★★ Transformers: The Last Knight ('17, Action) Mark Wahlberg. The war between Transformers and humans threatens Earth.					
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index
TCM	The Lion in Winter	★★ Christmas in Connecticut ('45) Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan. CC				In the Good Old Summertime	
TMC	6:00 Crooklyn	★★ Home for the Holidays ('95) Holly Hunter. CC			:45 ★★ The Money Pit ('86, Comedy) Tom Hanks. CC		
TNT	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Nets					NBA Basketball	
Travel	Dead	The Dead Files A demonic force in Illinois.				The Dead Files	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	:00 ★★ Four Brothers ('05) CC				★★★ New Jack City		
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Gifts for grandchildren are left behind at grandma's house

DEAR ABBY: I raised my kids right as a single mom. I took pride in supporting them and giving them what they needed and wanted.

I have a daughter who lives out of town with her husband and children. I don't get to see them often, so I love buying them gifts that are waiting for them when they get here. For the kids' birthdays and holidays, I always have nice gifts for them, too.

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

For the past few years, my daughter has refused to take any of the gifts home with her, so the toys sit in my spare rooms. She smirks and laughs when someone says something about leaving behind the gifts I buy. She and her husband stay at my house when they visit, so the kids play with their toys then.

I'm hurt by her lack of appreciation and have decided to stop buying anything for the kids on holidays or birthdays. I don't enjoy giving monetary gifts. I want to see the kids' faces when they open a present and play with it. Would it be wrong for me to just stop buying gifts? – Generous Granny In Ohio

DEAR GENEROUS GRANNY: This is something you should discuss with your daughter. Could it be that your grandchildren have so many toys at home that there isn't room for more?

I'm not sure why your daughter would "smirk and laugh" when "someone" mentions the gifts left behind when your family leaves. That kind of behavior is rude. But I don't think children should be punished for something their parent does. To deny them gifts on birthdays and Christmas because of it would be petulant and a mistake.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is close to death. I haven't had contact with her in 30 years. While we were growing up and even into adulthood, she was incredibly abusive, neglectful and manipulative. She didn't provide the basic needs of food and clothing for us. She prioritized her boyfriend over us kids and engaged in crazy behavior. She would chase us with knives, walk around naked and expect us to accompany her to throw garbage on her boyfriend's car.

I'm not a bad person. I don't wish any harm on her, but she's not part of my life for a reason. As she approaches death, how do I deal with this? No one should die alone. None of my siblings want anything to do with her, either. What do I even say? – Post-Traumatic In California

DEAR POST-TRAUMATIC: What do you even say ... to WHOM? To the person who informed you that your mother has little time left? To your mother if you choose to be with her? Are you sure your mother wants you there?

Because you asked for my advice, I am suggesting that you may have fewer regrets – and less anger, righteous as it may be – if you are with her at the end. You don't have to say anything more than, "Mom, I'm here for you," if you don't wish to. From your description of her, your mother may have had serious emotional problems for much of her life. Please allow me to offer my sympathy.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Girlfriend's 'voice of reason' puts damper on low-paying dream job

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: I was just offered a job that would revolutionize my life. It would mean a substantial pay cut – I might have to downsize to a smaller apartment and push off some goals like homeownership – but it's in my dream field, doing work that matters, on a schedule that would allow me much more time to do other things I love.

Carolyn Hax

This would be an easy decision if I were single. I would take the job and enjoy the self-actualization.

But I have a girlfriend of five years, and her contribution has so far been to remind me of how tough it would be to return to a higher-paying job if I take this detour.

Honestly, I resent that and wish she would not weigh in, since I feel the "voice of reason" perspective is already covered elsewhere. But now the doubt is there, and I don't know what to do. – Not Single

DEAR NOT SINGLE: I'm not sure what the problem is – that her concern might be valid and it dents your wishful thinking; that "elsewhere" was right all along but your girlfriend saying it means you now have to face it; that you disagree with "voices of reason" but feel you can't disagree with your girlfriend?

Maybe it's all moot, since you want the job and you're legally single so you take the pay cut. Like you said – easy.

But since something is under your skin about it all, it's probably worth at least a hard look first – to satisfy yourself, not your girlfriend.

And if you're frustrated the money issue is so far her only concern, then say so – that you hope she has some other insights, because you respect her opinion and know this affects her, too.

That way you'll either get something more substantial to think about, or you'll get confirmation that your girlfriend is not really on this journey with you. Good luck.

Readers' thoughts:

■ If you need the extra encouragement, I'm midway through a career I hate and have daily regret about not looking harder for a different career path.

■ I took a 60 percent pay cut to follow my dream. Huge mistake. I was able to get back into my old field at (almost) my old salary, but it was surprising to have a lot of people drop the salary substantially when I told them I wasn't currently in the field. I had to remind them that all the years of experience didn't just magically evaporate when I left.

■ You're not engaged. She has a right to her opinion, but if this is really what you want and who you are, you should embrace being you. Better she knows your real priorities before marriage.

■ Your enthusiasm is infectious. It sounds like something you should try, especially if you are young. At places that can't pay much, you often get to take leadership roles earlier. That can translate to higher paying work later.

However, it is still work. If it were all fun, they could do everything with volunteers. So don't hesitate over money. Do think three times because you need to realize not every moment at work can be meaningful and perfect. If you can live with that, go for it.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

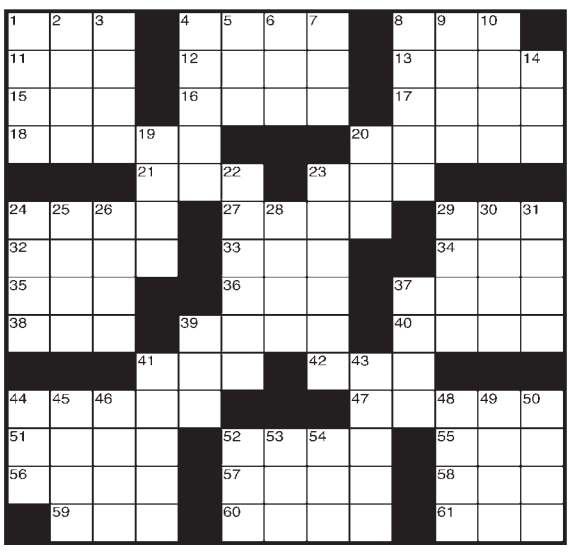
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Used a pew
4 Say grace
8 Oomph
11 Yuck!
12 Observance
13 Stork kin
15 Ernesto Guevara
16 Thought
17 Lawless role
18 Suspends
20 College books
21 Aussie bird
23 Scottish for John
24 Suit part
27 Billionth, in combos
29 D.C. initials
32 Whale like Shamu
33 Softball toss
34 Pipe fitting
35 Mauna —
36 College maj.
37 Mr. Lugosi
38 Tax-form ID
39 Mollusk
40 Wise — — owl
41 One of the Stooges
42 Startled cry
44 Cut of beef
47 Instruct
51 Road map info
52 Kid around with
55 Coral island
56 Judge's garb
57 Layered cookie
58 Put a stop to
59 Con's vote
60 Pulls
61 Sandra or Ruby

DOWN
1 Of that kind
2 — Khan
3 After which
4 Chandelier pendant
5 Get — of that junk!
6 Tucked away
7 Affirmative vote
8 Siren
9 Alpine goat
10 Garden herb
14 Stockholm carrier
19 Wooden clog
20 Eastern philosophy
22 Lacking the means
23 Tax form item
24 Tennessee alums
25 Mythical archer
26 Look over quickly
28 Diva's rendition
29 Turns right
30 Clay pot
31 Blueprint
37 Use the oven
39 Pull a fast one
41 Amble
43 Social mores
44 Wintertime sound
45 — — of bricks
46 Singer — McEntire
48 Made a hole-in-one
49 Bamboo stalk
50 London park
52 Little bit
53 Galleon cargo
54 Baste

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	O	T			W	A	N			G	P	S
A	A	H		S	A	L	E	S		R	O	O
R	H	O		C	L	E	A	N		A	N	A
B	U	R	N	E	D			O	D	D	E	R
			U	N	O		D	R	Y			
C	H	U	T	E		S	A	T	E	E	N	S
H	I	P	S		S	O	B			V	I	N
I	D	O			I	N	S		M	E	N	U
P	E	N	A	L	T	Y		C	A	R	O	B
			I	O	U		T	O	T			
H	E	A	D	Y			I	N	T	U	I	T
I	L	K		A	D	O	B	E		R	O	E
E	L	I		L	U	R	E	S		A	T	M
D	A	N			B	E	T			L	A	P



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEQTU

POSLI

WOSIND

REETOS

Is there anything else you'd like to know?
Will I be able to keep any of the clothes?
How long is the runway?
Will there be press?
BEFORE THE FASHION MODEL TOOK THE JOB, SHE ---
12/22

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOUND IMPEL MISFIT POCKET
Answer: They were discussing all the different doorbells and asked the salesperson to — CHIME IN

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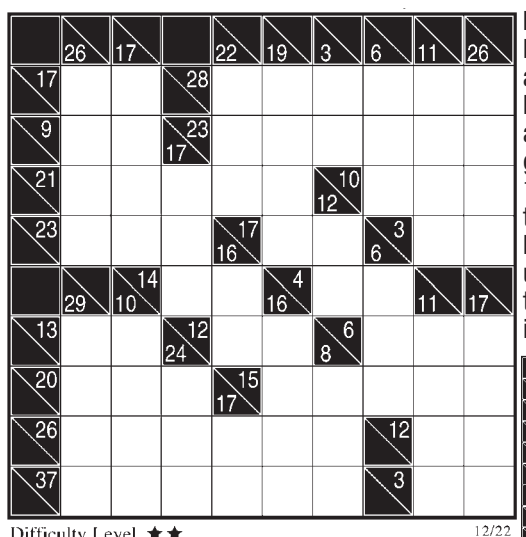
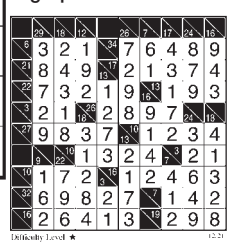
KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/22

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Ellen Hopkins, whose novels are particularly popular with teenagers and young adults, said, "For short-term relaxation, I take a hot tub. It's my best way to unblock writers' block, too. For a bit longer relaxation, I enjoy camping. Just being in the wilderness, with no phones or computers or anything I have to do really refreshes my spirit."

Which word in that quote is appropriate for today's deal? South is in three no-trump. West leads the spade king, immediately wishing he could have an "undo" and change to the spade two!

The Baltic states have done well keeping coronavirus under control, permitting live events. This deal arose during one of the weekly training sessions in Latvia.

South took a shot at three no-trump, hoping that he would not lose the first five tricks.

Karlis Rubins (West) knew that he had to get his partner on lead for a spade return through declarer's 10 – but how?

South, with only six top tricks, needed to establish diamond winners. But he should also have known that he could not afford to let in Jelena Alfejeva (East). So, when declarer played a low diamond toward his hand at trick two, he should have covered East's card with his nine (or seven). When he actually won with his ace, West immediately unblocked his king.

Declarer played a diamond to the queen and continued with a low heart, East carefully putting up her 10 (I would have played the jack). So, when South took the trick with his ace, West unblocked again, dropping the queen. Now East had to get on lead to push a spade through.

North 12-22-20
♠ A
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ K 7 2

West
♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ Q 7 6
♦ K 4
♣ 9 4 3

East
♠ 7 4 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ J 5 2
♣ Q 10 6 5

South
♠ 10 8 6 5
♥ A 9 2
♦ A 9 7
♣ A J 8

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
	1♠	Dbl.	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

7		9		3		6		5
3		8		7	6			
			2	9				
2	6	3		1			5	4
	7	1		4		9	6	
5	9			6		7	3	1
				2	3			
			4	5		3		6
9		2		8		5		7

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	2	3	9	1	6	7	4	5
9	7	4	5	2	8	3	1	6
1	6	5	7	3	4	8	9	2
5	1	6	8	9	7	2	3	4
3	9	8	2	4	1	6	5	7
7	4	2	3	6	5	1	8	9
4	5	7	1	8	2	9	6	3
6	8	9	4	7	3	5	2	1
2	3	1	6	5	9	4	7	8

BEETLE BAILEY

SARGE, WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OF US?
YOU'RE NO GOOD, BEETLE!
YOU'RE NO GOOD, PLATO!
YOU'RE NO GOOD, KILLER!
GREG+ MORT WALKER
YOU'RE NO GOOD, ZERO!
YOU'RE NO GOOD, ROCKY!
YOU'RE NO GOOD, YO!
HE'S AN UNBIASED INSULTER
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12/21

BLONDIE

YOU'RE LOOKING EXTRA JOLLY TODAY!
HO! HO! HO!!
I BET IT'S FUN GIVING GIFTS TO KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD
HO! HO! HO!... IT REALLY IS!
I BET HE MAKES MORE DELIVERIES THAN AMAZON
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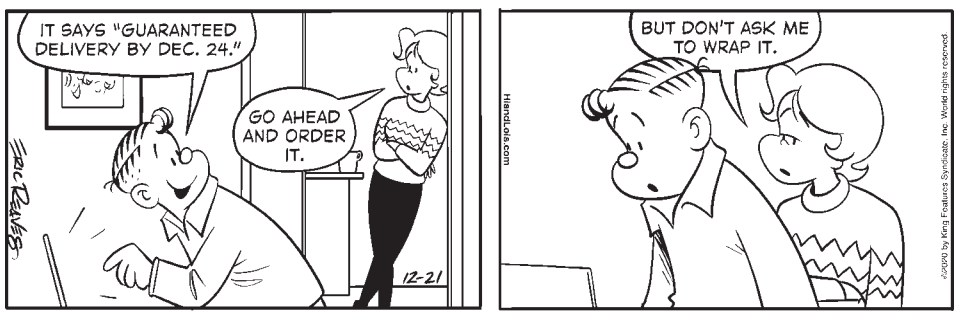
12-21
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


IT SAYS "GUARANTEED DELIVERY BY DEC. 24."
GO AHEAD AND ORDER IT.
ERIC REYES
12-21
BUT DON'T ASK ME TO WRAP IT.
HiandLois.com
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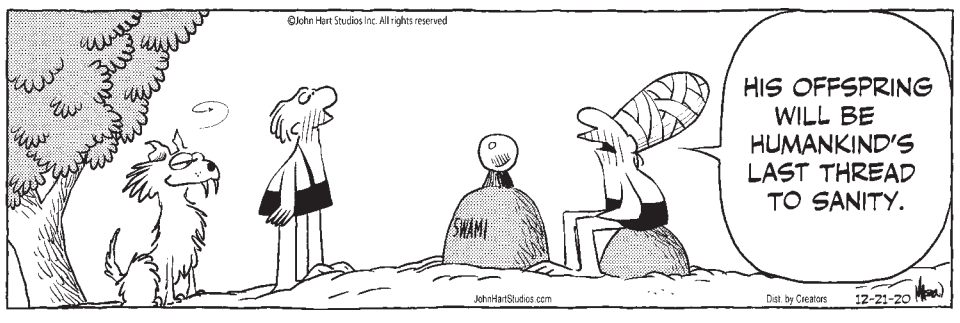
BC



WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

I OBJECT TO YOUR TWITTER PROFILE. IT SAYS. . .
"MY TWEETS ARE SMART AND USEFUL, SO OBVIOUSLY THEY DO NOT REPRESENT MY EMPLOYER."
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
SMORPH!
NOW SEE WHAT YOU DID TO WALLY.
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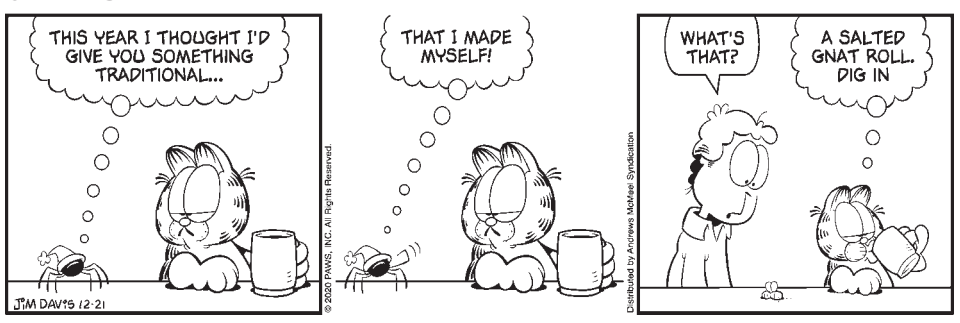
GARFIELD


THIS YEAR I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU SOMETHING TRADITIONAL...
THAT I MADE MYSELF!
JIM DAVIS 12-21
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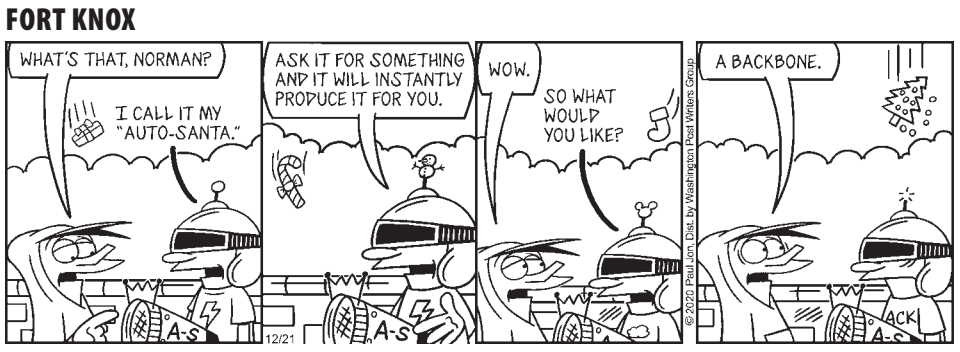
WHAT'S THAT?
A SALTED GNAT ROLL. DIG IN
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

FORT KNOX


WHAT'S THAT, NORMAN?
I CALL IT MY "AUTO-SANTA."
ASK IT FOR SOMETHING AND IT WILL INSTANTLY PRODUCE IT FOR YOU.
WOW.
SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
A BACKBONE.
ACK!
12/21
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PICKLES

I THINK I HAVE "BUT FIRST" SYNDROME.
YOU DO?
YES, YOU KNOW. IT'S WHERE I DECIDE TO DO THE LAUNDRY, BUT FIRST I SEE THE DIRTY DISHES SO I DECIDE TO DO THEM...
SO I REACH FOR THE DISH SOAP, BUT FIRST I NOTICE THE FLOOR NEEDS WASHING, SO I GO TO GET THE MOP, BUT FIRST... AND SO ON AND SO ON.
AHH... I THOUGHT IT MEANT YOU WERE ALWAYS WALKING AROUND BACKWARDS.
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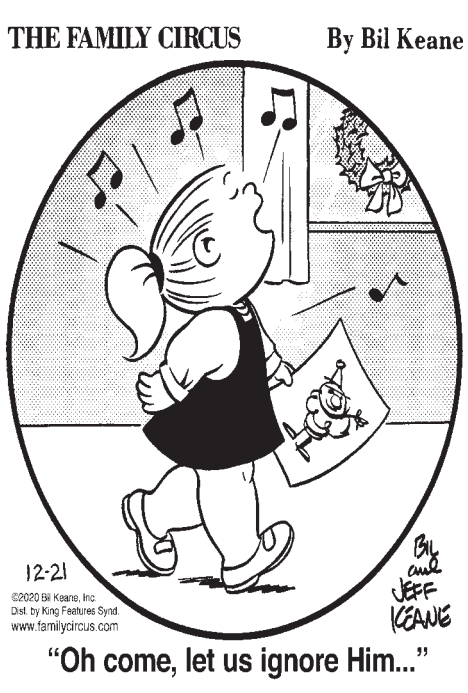
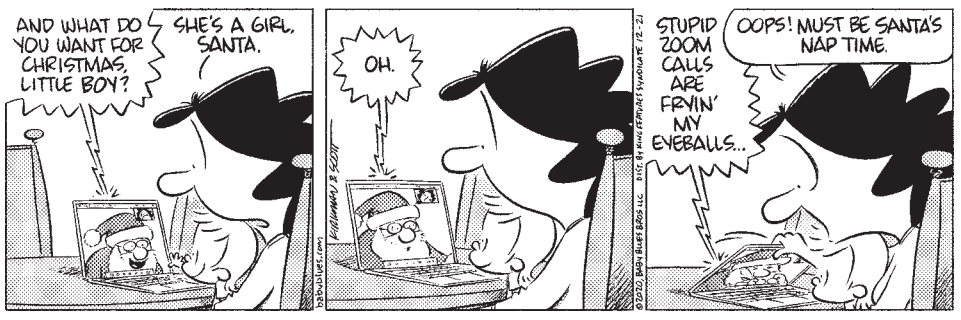
FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES


AND WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS, LITTLE BOY?
SHE'S A GIRL, SANTA.
OH.
STUPID ZOOM CALLS ARE FRYIN' MY EYEBALLS...
OOPS! MUST BE SANTA'S NAP TIME.
12-21

CURTIS

ICE CREAM WITH STRAWBERRY JAM, CHOCOLATE SYRUP, CRUSHED PEANUTS AND A SLICED BANANA
WHEN'S DINNER ?
LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES
GOOD, CALL ME WHEN IT'S READY
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ALL THESE YEARS, IT DOESN'T SPOIL HIS APPETITE!
12-21

ZITS

NEED ANY HELP, JEREMY?
NO, THANKS.
WHAT I REALLY NEED IS ABOUT THREE MORE HANDS!
SPRING
WHY DIDN'T I SAY "JET SKI"?
SCOTTIE BERGMAN 12-21
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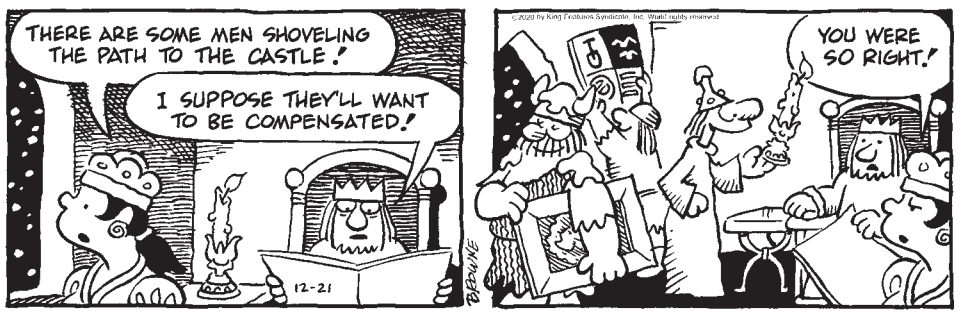
Zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


THERE ARE SOME MEN SHOVELING THE PATH TO THE CASTLE.
I SUPPOSE THEY'LL WANT TO BE COMPENSATED!
12-21
YOU WERE SO RIGHT.
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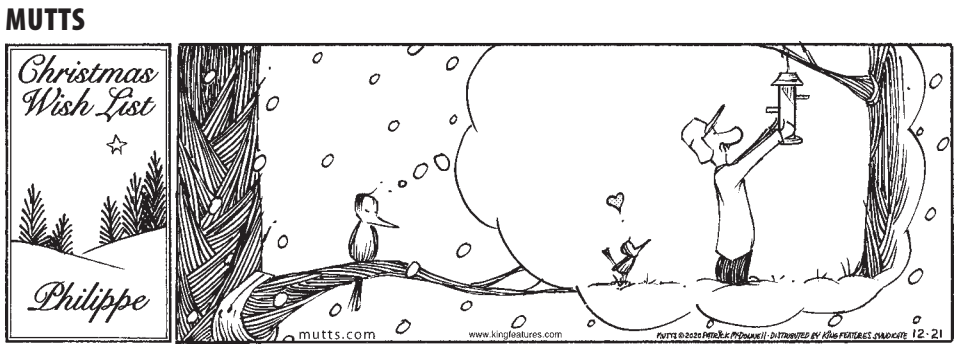
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

WHAT'S THIS?
SOME MORE OF BETTINA'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS JUST ARRIVED.
MORE GIFTS? BUT WE ALREADY GOT HER A TON OF STUFF.
I KNOW, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS THAT SHE'LL REALLY REMEMBER, SO I WANT TO MAKE IT SPECIAL.
12-21
BY MAKING HER FULLY COGNIZANT OF A TRADITION OF OVERSPENDING AND OVERINDULGENCE?
OKAY, BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING ELSE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE DELUXE GIFT WRAP CAN BRING TO A MOMENT...
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The entire archive of The Herald-Palladium and its forerunner newspapers, dating back more than 150 years, is now available online in a text-searchable format

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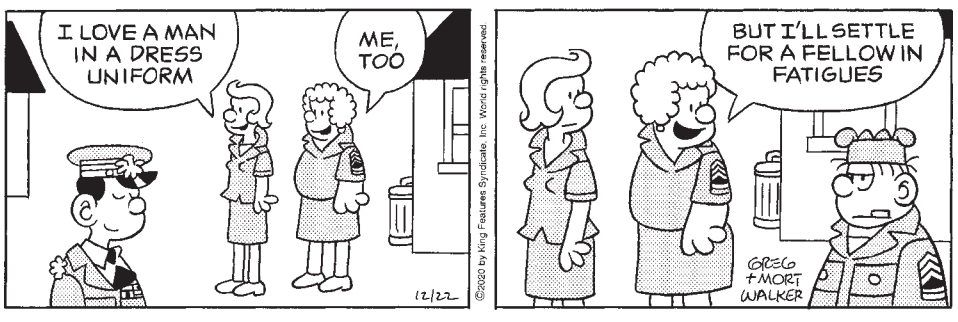
BENTON HARBOR PALLADIUM
The Evening New
EXTRA
Sniper's Gun Kills JFK In Dallas, Texas
St. Joseph Saturday Herald.
ST. JOSEPH DAILY PRESS
SHOOTS HER HUSBAND AND RESUMES IRONING
ST. JOSEPH HERALD-PRESS
WAR DECLARED!
HOUSE PASSES STATE OF WAR RESOLUTION
The Herald-Palladium
Terrorists strik
Washington, NY
Pentagon also hit by hijacked airplane, and another plane crashes in Pennsylvania

BEETLE BAILEY


I LOVE A MAN IN A DRESS UNIFORM
ME, TOO
12/22
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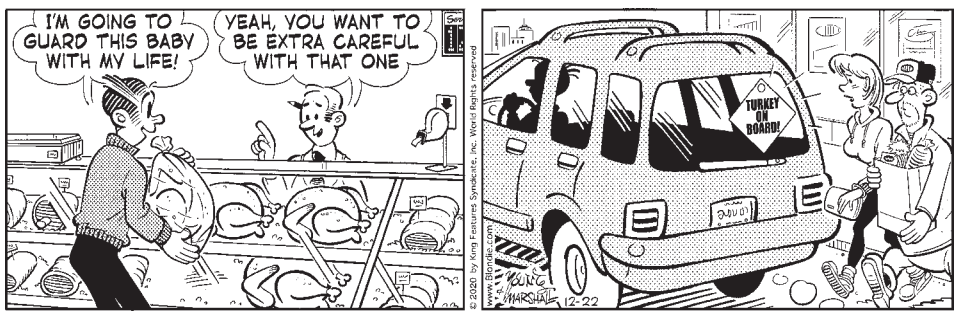
BUT I'LL SETTLE FOR A FELLOW IN FATIGUES
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE


I'M GOING TO GUARD THIS BABY WITH MY LIFE!
YEAH, YOU WANT TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL WITH THAT ONE
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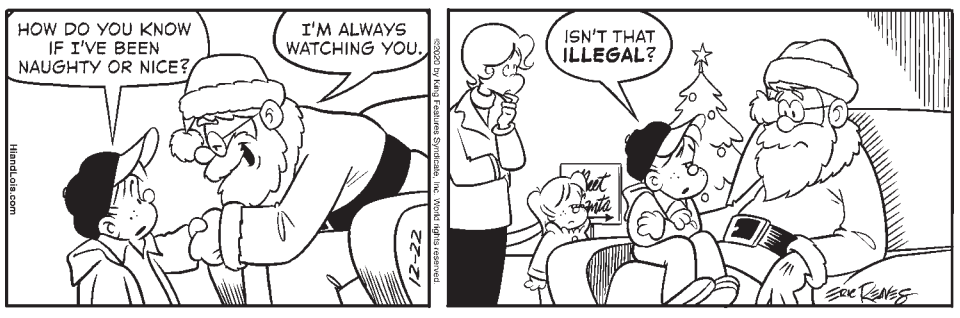
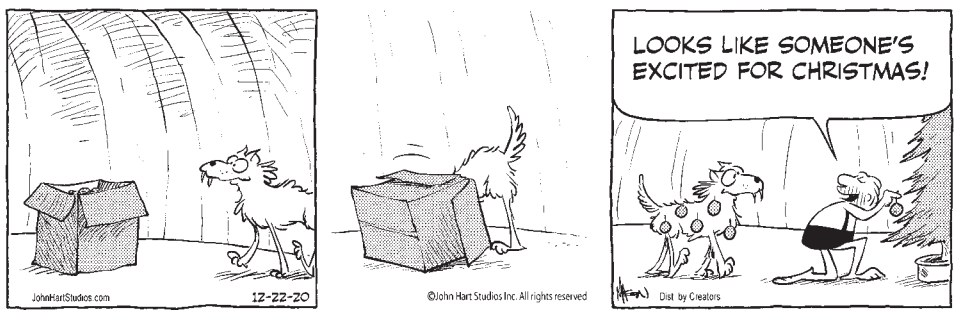
www.Blondie.com
TURKEY ON BOARD!
12-22

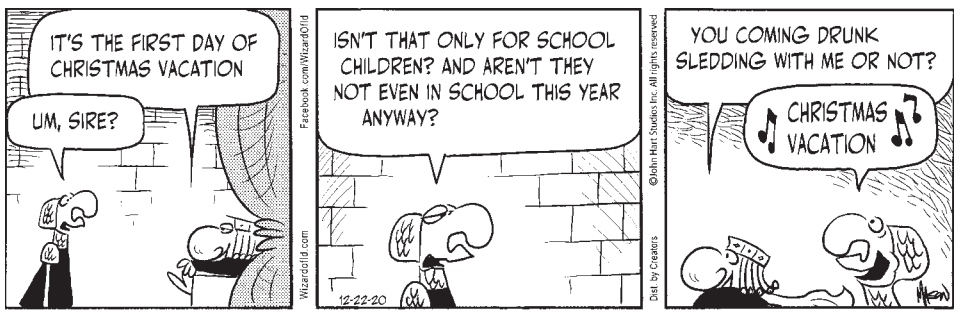
HI & LOIS


HOW DO YOU KNOW IF I'VE BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?
I'M ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.
12-22
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
ISN'T THAT ILLEGAL?
Dear Santa
ERIC REYNOLDS

BC



WIZARD OF ID


IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS VACATION
UM, SIRE?
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
WizardOfId.com
ISN'T THAT ONLY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN? AND AREN'T THEY NOT EVEN IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR ANYWAY?
12-22-20
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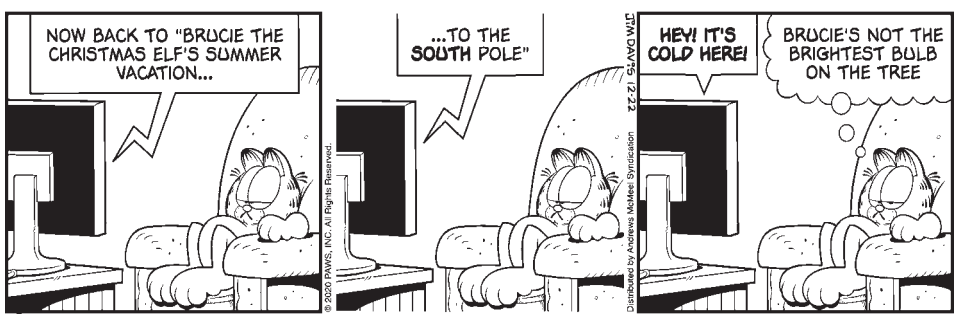
Dist. by Creators
YOU COMING DRUNK SLEDDING WITH ME OR NOT?
CHRISTMAS VACATION

DILBERT

YOU ARE ALL REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A CLASS IN ETHICS.
DILBERT.COM
@SCOTTADAMSSAYS
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE US THE ONLY ETHICAL ORGANIZATION IN OUR INDUSTRY AND CREATE A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE THAT LEADS TO OUR DEMISE?
12-22-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
STOP YOUR WORRYING. THE CLASS IS REQUIRED, BUT I'M NOT EXPECTING ANY OF IT TO STICK.

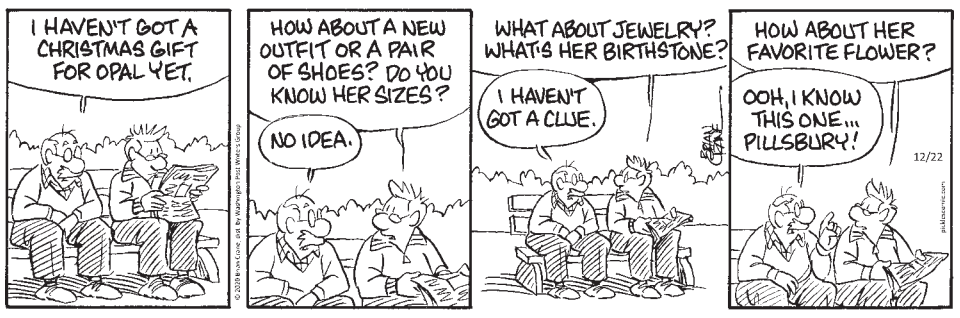
GARFIELD


NOW BACK TO "BRUCIE THE CHRISTMAS ELF'S SUMMER VACATION...
...TO THE SOUTH POLE"
© 2020 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
12-22
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
HEY! IT'S COLD HERE!
BRUCIE'S NOT THE BRIGHTEST BULB ON THE TREE

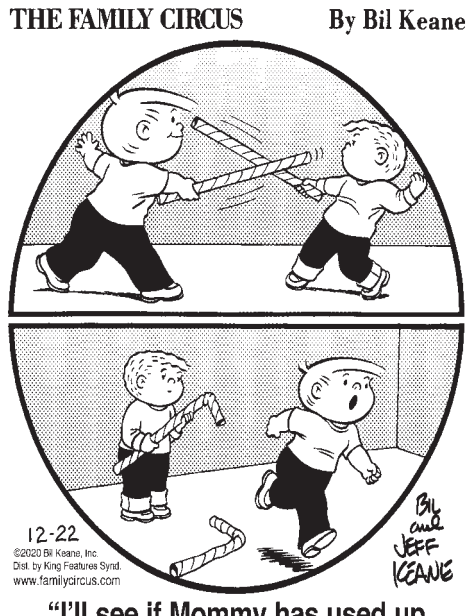
FORT KNOX

NORMAN, I NEED TO BORROW YOUR "AUTO-SANTA."
NO WAY, DONALD.
© 2020 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
12/22
BUT, BY INSTANTLY CREATING GIFTS, IT WILL HELP ME AVOID THE MOST PAINFUL PART OF CHRISTMAS.
EXCHANGING GIFTS?
BEING GOOD.

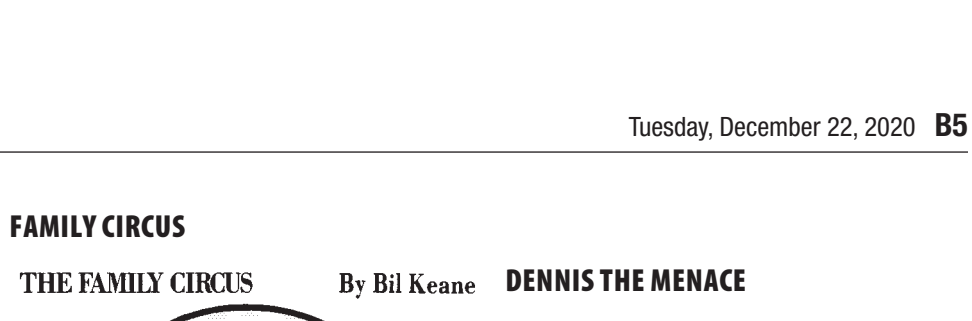
PICKLES


I HAVEN'T GOT A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR OPAL YET.
© 2020 Brian Crane. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
HOW ABOUT A NEW OUTFIT OR A PAIR OF SHOES? DO YOU KNOW HER SIZES?
NO IDEA.
WHAT ABOUT JEWELRY? WHAT'S HER BIRTHSTONE?
I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE.
HOW ABOUT HER FAVORITE FLOWER?
OOH, I KNOW THIS ONE... PILLSBURY!
12/22
picklescomic.com

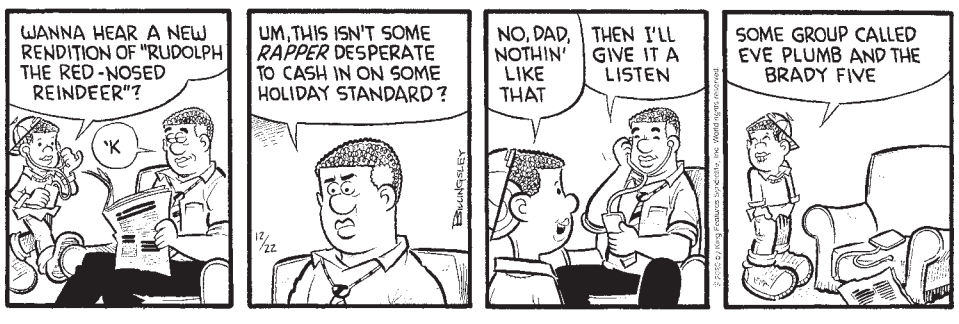
FAMILY CIRCUS


THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane
12-22
©2020 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
BIL and JEFF KEANE
"I'll see if Mommy has used up any more rolls of gift wrap."

BABY BLUES


WE SHOULD START WRAPPING GIFTS.
WHY DON'T WE SKIP IT THIS YEAR?
THE KIDS ARE USED TO WRAPPED GIFTS, DARRYL.
WE'LL BLAME THE VIRUS!
HOW COULD A VIRUS ELIMINATE GIFT WRAPPING?
I HEARD THE ELVES ARE TURNING IT INTO TOILET PAPER!

CURTIS


WANNA HEAR A NEW RENDITION OF "RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER"?
'K
UM, THIS ISN'T SOME RAPPER DESPERATE TO CASH IN ON SOME HOLIDAY STANDARD?
12/22
NO, DAD, NOTHIN' LIKE THAT
THEN I'LL GIVE IT A LISTEN
SOME GROUP CALLED EVE PLUMB AND THE BRADY FIVE

ZITS

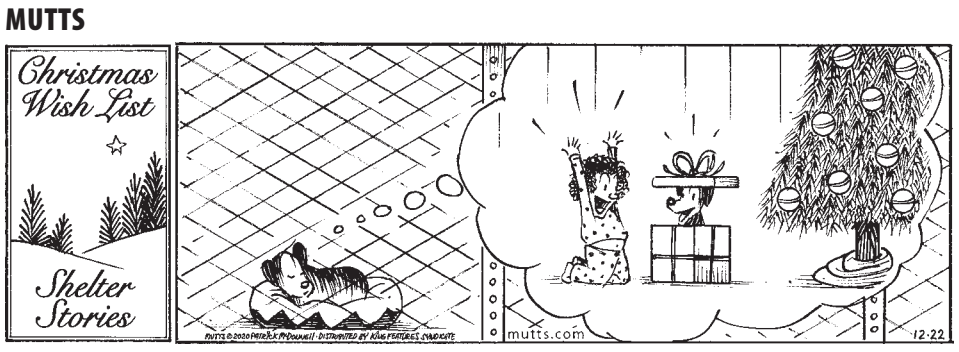
JEREMY...?
YEAH. I KNOW.
ALL I SAID WAS, "I NEED THREE MORE HANDS," AND POOF!
INTER-ESTING.
SHOULDN'T WE GO SEE A DOCTOR OR SOMETHING?
MAYBE AFTER WE FINISH THE DISHES.
zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

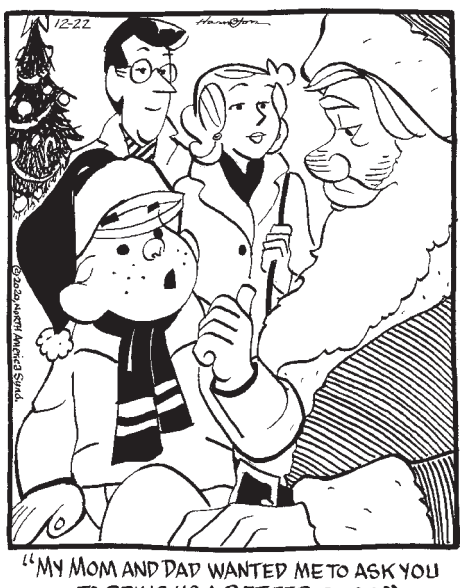
HAGAR! NICE OF YOU TO VISIT!
HOW'S MY FAVORITE ARCHER HANDLING RETIREMENT?
12-22
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
I'M EASING INTO IT.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



DENNIS THE MENACE



SALLY FORTH

RALPH, MONEY'S TIGHT THIS YEAR. AND WE SAID WE WOULDN'T OVERSPEND ON GIFTS, EVEN FOR BETTINA.
I KNOW. IT'S JUST... WHEN I WAS A KID I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH, INCLUDING ON CHRISTMAS...
KEEFE
AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY KID HAS A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE. ESPECIALLY SINCE I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE A KID, GIVEN MY PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP ISSUES, MY SOCIAL MISSTEPS, MY COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS...
12-22
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
REALLY MAKING ME FEEL LIKE I WON THE LOTTERY HERE, RALPH.
...MY PERSONALITY, ACCORDING TO YOUR SISTER AND EVERYONE ELSE I'VE EVER WORKED WITH...

TRUSTED
NEWS & INFORMATION
When You Need It Most
In times of uncertainty, rest assured that as your community newspaper, we are working hard with a local, regional and national network of official resources to keep you informed and up to date on the issues and developments that matter most to you.

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The Herald-Palladium CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

MICHIGAN CITY

3 Bedroom Lower,

Includes air conditioning.

1/2 basement with washer and dryer

No pets!

$800 per month

219-872-4731

Michigan City, IN

1 bedroom upper PLUS loft

Includes Washer & Dryer

No pets

$600 per month plus utilities

Call 219-872-4731

Trail Creek, IN
2 Bedroom apartment, very nice & clean, central air, with nice yard, very quiet neighborhood, $600 a month plus deposit, water and sewer included, renters responsible for Nipsco, No Pets first month plus deposit due at signing.
(219) 879-3700

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LEGALS

LEGALS

abandoned vehicle auction on December 28,2020 at 1:00 at Zielke Towing 1303 M-139 Benton Harbor 49022

2020 Dodge station wagon
VIN # 1C4RDJDG4LC186119

2013 Ford Fusion
Vin# 3FA6POH78DR130062
social distancing face covers will be enforced.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF ST. JOSEPH
Berrien County, Michigan

A PUBLIC HEARING is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at a special meeting of the St. Joseph City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to be held by electronic conferencing, for the reason of protecting public health during the pandemic and in compliance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Gathering Prohibition and Face Covering dated December 18, 2020. For the purpose of receiving comments regarding the draft 2021 – 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The plan is available for public review and comment through 5:00pm Thursday January 7, 2021 online at www.sj-city.com or City Hall at 700 Broad St, St. Joseph.

The City of St. Joseph is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the development of Parks and Recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

This notice is published by:

The City of St. Joseph
City Clerk
700 Broad St.
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-6325

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION/ TEACHING

School Guidance Counselor

River Valley School District
Employment info at:
www.rivervalley schools.org
Deadline: Until Filled

Special Education Paraprofessional

River Valley School District
Employment info at:
www.river valleyschools.org
Deadline: Until filled

GENERAL HELP

Food Service Delivery Driver
Join our crew! The area's leading fresh produce food service distributor has both CDL and non-CDL positions available. Deliver to local restaurants and institutions. Must have a good driving record, and be able to lift product. Home every night. Good benefits. Apply at Shelton's Farm Market, 1832 S 11th Street, Niles MI.

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

BUYING JUNK
CARS & TRUCKS
Small Cars $200
Medium Cars $300
Large Vehicles $350
Call Larry at
(269)326-0510
Or Scott at
(269)208-9208

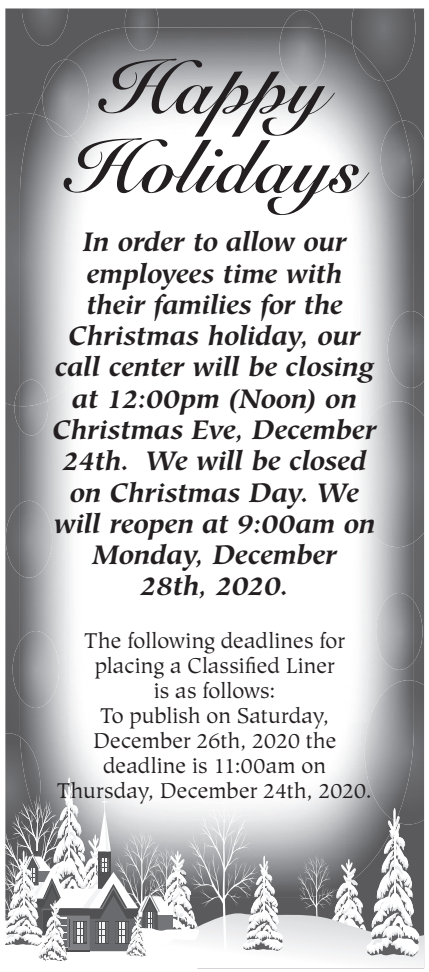
WANTED
Electrician - part-time
Call 269-252-6352

PETS

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE HUNTING?
Watch For Our Open House Ads In The Classifieds!


Happy Holidays
In order to allow our employees time with their families for the Christmas holiday, our call center will be closing at 12:00pm (Noon) on Christmas Eve, December 24th. We will be closed on Christmas Day. We will reopen at 9:00am on Monday, December 28th, 2020.
The following deadlines for placing a Classified Liner is as follows:
To publish on Saturday, December 26th, 2020 the deadline is 11:00am on Thursday, December 24th, 2020.

Auction

Please take notice. StayLock Storage intends to hold an auction of goods for the following units in default for non-payment of rent. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 1/6/2021 at 12:00PM.

Notice of lien sale
3919 Red Arrow Hwy Saint Joseph MI 49055
Schmidt, K. PO Box 13891, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

333 Palladium Dr Saint Joseph MI 49055
Hopkins, T. 1268 Jennings Ave, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mccoy Brother's Jewelers will resume business when the vaccine arrives and is administered to the public at large. Hang in there, folks.
Mccoy Brother's will reopen at that time, for the final run, of about one year.

The Herald-Palladium

The Herald Palladium is looking for a reliable person to drive a company owned, 16 foot truck, to deliver newspapers from our local print site to The Grand Haven Tribune in Grand Haven, MI. The position is not responsible for the delivery of individual newspapers to subscribers. Drops are made at two post office locations, as well as, the local newspaper office. Experience operating an electric lift is desired.

This is a third shift position, approximately 3-7am, Tuesday-Saturday. Must have valid driver's license and have a clean MVR.

Job Type: Part-time

To Apply: Contact Bruce
btheisen@heraldpalladium.com
269-429-2400 ext. 553

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Verify information carefully this year. The best way to eliminate uncertainty is to know what you are up against and to act accordingly. Refuse to let anyone try to sway your opinions or decisions. Run the show instead of taking a wait-and-see approach. Be direct and forceful, and pursue your goals with passion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) An aggressive position will help you get your way. Use your intelligence to outmaneuver any competition. Don't let uncertainty cause you to miss an opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be careful not to start something you cannot finish. You'll come up against opposition if you try to make changes without input from others. Pay more attention to personal growth.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Connect with people who have helped you in the past, and show interest in what others are doing. You'll discover some valuable information that will help you upgrade your approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You could feel pressure to get things done before the year comes to a close. Don't let trivial matters get to you when it's the big picture that counts. Stay focused on what's important to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A sudden change will cause uncertainty. Figure out precisely what you want to do, and put your strategy in place. Use your intelligence to navigate your way forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Trust in yourself, not in what someone is telling you. Look at every angle and consider the consequences of your actions. Look over personal and professional contacts, and evaluate your options.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Rely on your intelligence, creativity and charisma to help you seal a deal, connect with someone you want to work alongside or commit to someone special. Make plans, and put an end to uncertainty.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't jump to conclusions. Keep track of you spend, your actions and what's still on your to-do list. Organization and preparation will eliminate stress. Romance is encouraged.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Embrace change. Making room for projects and home improvements or clearing a space conducive to learning something new will empower you to reach your goal. Don't fall for anyone's tricks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Consider what will make your life easier and less stressful and will encourage better concentration, then make the necessary adjustments. Aggressive action will impress a loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Think outside the box, and you'll surprise someone special. A unique approach will attract someone who wants to be on your team. Speak up and take action; everything will fall into place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Control your emotions in order to avoid appearing insecure or indecisive. Focus on getting things done, taking good care of yourself and of loved ones, and creating a strategy that will lead to a better future.

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses
You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous
To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges
Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE

Grow your business!
Call Angelique at 855-317-4292 Ex. 701, to find out how

CARPENTRY

Richter's Carpentry
Specializing in basement remodeling, drywall, drop ceilings, doors & trim.
No job too small.
20+ years in Business.
944-0236

HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR

Larry Morrow SR
Residential Builder
- Painting
- Kitchens
- Baths
- Drywall
- Roofing
- Decks
- Windows
- Doors
- Fences
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Flooring
- Siding
- Basements
- Tub Refinishing

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Licensed & Insured

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Demler Roofing
Over 40 Years Experience
Baroda, MI
269-422-2542
Licensed & Insured
Shingles are our Specialty

MASONRY

Michigan Concrete Masonry
Driveways, all concrete, brick, block, stone & chimneys.
All repairs, big or small
(We repair all leaky basements)
(269)993-8645

Careers are made in the Classifieds... FIND ONE TODAY!

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

g you

n the

season

of
Michigan

UWSM.ORG

Please consider a g
this holiday season.
will help us impac
in 2021 and

Last y

84,293 Total indi
$3,157,062 Leveraged th
2,259 volunteers s
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$8,586,263 Total value de

We are grateful
in a year full
Wishing you
happiness in th

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G/DONATE

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67%

Coupon-loving adults clip and use newspaper coupons each month.

82%

Each month, a whopping percentage of American adults use a newspaper insert for shopping ideas or coupon-clipping.

73%

Adults rely on newspaper inserts as important part of shopping.

56%

Adults bought something in the past month as a result of a newspaper ad.

TH
BIGG
MA

For most Americans, the mass
that come with the Sunday Pap
shopping ritual. 115 million U.S
adults, read the Sunday paper

73% of adults regularly/occas
newspaper advertising i

60% of adults prefer that adv
with the newspaper.

64% of adults prefer to receiv
more than all other med

82% of adults used a newspa

67% clipped and saved

59% used it to compare

52% saved an insert ur

43% used a special ad,
an unplanned purchase

83% of adults report using ne
or more often than a few

71% usually check inse

67% make a point to lo
when in the market for w

66% say inserts make i

61% say inserts are pa

61% say inserts save ti

4.4 days is the average tim

How Ame

Newspaper advert
A destination, not

Newspaper Association of America 4401 Wilson

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each week.

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sale or promotion to make

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ne a newspaper insert is saved.

Scarborough Research 2008
erica Shops and Spends/ MORI Research 2009

tising.
a distraction.
www.newspapermedia.com

N®

Blvd., Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22203 571.366.1000

170 Million

Adults read a newspaper in print or online in the past week.

115 Million

Readers who make newspapers an important part of their Sunday tradition.

56%

According to Google, a healthy percentage of consumers research or purchase products they see in the newspaper.

61%

18–34 year–olds read a newspaper in any given week.